



A timeline of State Police controversies



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A steady drumbeat of scandals and controversies in recent months have the Massachusetts State Police reeling and under intense scrutiny from taxpayers, lawmakers, and state and federal investigators. The issues have involved everyone from rank-and-file troopers and civilian employees to top commanders in the state's law enforcement agency, including its former top official who resigned amid public pressure last fall.

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Many cases remain under investigation, including state and federal criminal probes into allegations that troopers stole money by billing the state for overtime shifts they never worked.

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A timeline of State

Below is a timeline of how the turmoil has unfolded.

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Show all

Claims of misconduct

Payroll, financial issues

Investigations

Personnel changes

Pledges of reform

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Oct 2018

The head of State Police **launches** an investigation into new accusations of trooper payroll fraud, alleging some members used the union as an excuse to take paid leave.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Oct 2018

Revelations **surface** that the State Police Department tried several times in recent months to destroy more than a hundred boxes of payroll, attendance, and personnel documents that span decades amid numerous ongoing investigations into overtime and payroll fraud.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Sep 2018

The Globe **reports** that State Police troopers are retiring at a record clip this year, pushing staff levels lower even as the department is trying to both expand its operations and rein in overtime costs.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Sep 2018

The president of the union that represents State Police troopers **resigns** amid a federal investigation into possible illegal reimbursement of campaign donations by union members. A few days later, a new union president was **named**.

PLEDGES OF REFORM

Sep 2018

State Police leaders **announce** they will hire the prominent firm Ernst & Young to audit the department's payroll policies and other protocols in the wake of the overtime fraud scandal. Meanwhile, other reforms pledged in the spring remain unfulfilled.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Sep 2018

Three retired State Police lieutenants who allegedly were paid thousands of dollars in 2016 for overtime they did not work **are indicted by a Suffolk grand jury**. They are the first to be charged by the state since it launched its probe into overtime abuse, which is separate from the federal case. One of the three ex-lieutenants charged in the state case was previously charged by federal prosecutors and pleaded not guilty in that other case. He was a shift commander. The other two charged in the state case were barracks commanders.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Aug 2018

The state Inspector General's office begins **hiring for an independent audit unit** to oversee State Police after lawmakers passed legislation to create the unit. Two other measures enacted by lawmakers, the formation of a committee to review State Police hiring and promotions and the launch of a UMass Boston study of the agency's management, also get underway.

INVESTIGATIONS

Aug 2018

An internal State Police investigation cleared agency officials of wrongdoing for

hiring Trooper Leigha Genduso, and blamed her for not disclosing her drug-dealing past and role as a key witness in a high-profile trafficking case. Genduso resigned upon reviewing the internal investigation, which her attorney called “a coverup from day one.”

INVESTIGATIONS

Aug 2018

Four more troopers are temporarily **relieved of duty and placed under internal investigation** as part of a growing overtime fraud scandal. Forty-six current and former troopers are now linked to the payroll fraud investigation and have had details of their alleged misconduct forwarded to state and federal prosecutors.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Aug 2018

The Globe reports that State Police officials had received warnings about payroll issues in recent years. Despite the red flags, there is scant evidence that department leaders acted to address a culture of impunity.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jul 2018

State Police announce it will bring on as a consultant Kathleen M. O’Toole, a **trailblazing former Boston police commissioner** known as a specialist in reforming police agencies from Seattle to Ireland.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jul 2018

A retired trooper is arrested by the FBI for [allegedly collecting \\$14,000 for overtime he didn't work](#), becoming the fifth current or former trooper charged in an expanding federal investigation.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jul 2018

The daughter of the district court judge [whose arrest report was altered](#) had the final charge stemming from that drunken driving case resolved in court.

PLEDGES OF REFORM

Jul 2018

It is unlikely, if not impossible, that State Police will hit the goal of one of their plans to cut overtime spending within a particularly costly unit, [according to a Globe review](#) of internal documents, past cost-control efforts, and the unit's composition.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jul 2018

Lynn DeWolfe, the Tyngsborough woman accused of triggering a fatal crash last summer — minutes after a state trooper let her go following an earlier crash — [pleads not guilty](#) to new charges of motor vehicle homicide and drugged driving. The wife of the man killed in the crash said she was happy DeWolfe was charged but was waiting for state troopers to be held responsible for their actions that day.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jul 2018

The Globe reports that a trooper has admitted receiving free guns from a state-contracted firearms dealer and is cooperating with prosecutors in an ongoing criminal investigation into the sale of department weapons. The trooper was one of three troopers the department suspended in Sept. 2016 for allegedly selling hundreds of used State Police guns, prompting the criminal probe.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jul 2018

The Globe reports how sleepy State Police barracks on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket appear to be an inefficient use of taxpayer resources.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jul 2018

A federal judge dismisses a lawsuit filed by the two state troopers who said they were illegally forced to alter a report on the arrest of the daughter of a district court judge. The judge ruled the alleged wrongful actions of top state police officials, even if proven, didn't meet the standards for a federal claim. The troopers still have a similar civil suit pending in Suffolk Superior Court.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jul 2018

The identity of a fourth State Police trooper ensnared in the federal criminal case is revealed after documents are released showing he has pleaded guilty to collecting tens of thousands of dollars in bogus overtime payments -- marking the first conviction in the fraud scandal.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jul 2018

The Globe reports that at least [17 troopers linked to overtime abuse](#) and under suspicion for payroll fraud have retired in recent months, locking in generous pensions and cashing out unused benefits and perks.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jun 2018

Governor Charlie Baker says the investigation into alleged overtime fraud among troopers is [part of a “conspiracy” that may go back years](#).

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jun 2018

Three veteran Massachusetts State Police troopers are arrested and accused of pocketing thousands of dollars for overtime they didn't work, marking the first charges in a broadening federal probe. “Let me be clear that today's charges are the beginning and not the end of this federal investigation,” said US Attorney Andrew E. Lelling.

INVESTIGATIONS

Jun 2018

It is reported that a federal grand jury is [investigating the alleged theft of overtime pay](#) and other misconduct involving members of the Massachusetts State Police.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jun 2018

In a new lawsuit from one of the troopers in the altered arrest report case, Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. is alleged to have “initiated and directed” a conspiracy to defame the trooper and unlawfully tamper with a court file on the trooper’s arrest of a judge’s daughter.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jun 2018

The Globe reports that State Police, despite its claims of reforms, have quietly continued to staff seven so-called Emergency Response Stations purely on an overtime basis, costing taxpayers millions each year.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Jun 2018

The former head of payroll for State Police pleads guilty to a charge she stole \$23,900 from the agency.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Jun 2018

Three state troopers are arrested in overtime fraud probe.

PLEDGES OF REFORM

May 2018

Following the Globe report, Colonel Gilpin ordered an independent investigation into the handling of the DeWolfe case.

PLEDGES OF REFORM

May 2018

Colonel Gilpin and Governor Baker [announce Troop E has been eliminated](#), the cruiser-tracking GPS technology has been switched on, and dozens of troopers were shifted to Troop F to curb overtime there. Officials opted to delay making a decision on what to do over its long tug of war with Boston Police about who should patrol the city's Seaport district.

PLEDGES OF REFORM

Apr 2018

Governor Baker and Colonel Gilpin announce the agency will [eliminate the Troop E unit, begin tracking all cruisers through GPS monitoring, and develop a body camera program](#). Officials also vowed to create a plan to work with Boston police on how the two agencies — long at odds over their jurisdiction of the fast-growing Seaport neighborhood — will patrol the district. However, [questions quickly arose](#) about how some of the measures would face significant hurdles, including first needing to be approved through collective bargaining.

INVESTIGATIONS

Apr 2018

A Globe report details how the scandal-plagued [Troop E](#) was also at the center of a [2016 inspector general's investigation into irregularities in the awarding of tow contracts along the Massachusetts Turnpike](#).

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Apr 2018

Another trove of once-hidden State Police pay records revealed **troopers receive \$40 per diems for driving their own cars to work**, which amounted to as much as \$13,000 a year in per diems for some, the Globe reported.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Apr 2018

The head of payroll for State Police **faced criminal charges for allegedly stealing more than \$23,000 from the department.**

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Apr 2018

State officials acknowledge to the Globe that **the state failed to pay taxes on tens of millions of dollars in per diems doled out to state troopers since the 1970s for driving their own cars to work**, leaving Massachusetts vulnerable to a potentially massive bill from the IRS.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Apr 2018

The Globe reports on a state trooper that allowed a woman to continue driving after she was involved in a crash in August and despite 911 calls that she appeared to be driving erratically and on drugs. Minutes later, the woman, Lynn DeWolfe a twice-convicted drunk driver, **allegedly crashed again, triggering a collision that killed a father of three.** The investigative report also raised questions about why the agency didn't do more to investigate and failed to tell prosecutors about key details that led up to the fatal crash.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Mar 2018

The Globe reveals Trooper Matthew Sheehan, who days earlier shot a Cape Verdean ATV driver, [has a history of posting racist, inflammatory remarks online](#). After the report, [State Police suspend him without pay](#).

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Mar 2018

A Globe report highlights how [245 troopers](#) — or about 12 percent of the force — [made more than \\$200,000 during 2017](#).

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Mar 2018

Trooper Jonathan Brown is placed on leave after allegedly being [caught intoxicated in the middle of an eight-hour shift](#).

INVESTIGATIONS

Mar 2018

State Police announce [20 active troopers and one retired trooper were under investigation for the apparent theft of overtime pay](#). The troopers were all members of Troop E, which patrols the Massachusetts Turnpike, tunnels, and Tobin Bridge. That disclosure, on the heels of several other scandals in prior months, [prompts calls for the agency to take steps to bolster accountability](#).

INVESTIGATIONS

Mar 2018

Of the 20 active troopers under investigation for the apparent theft of overtime pay, [nine retire, nine are suspended without pay](#). One trooper is kept on active duty, and another trooper had already been suspended without pay while being investigated in another matter.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Mar 2018

The Globe reveals payroll records for an entire 140-trooper State Police division — including some of the department’s highest earners — [had been hidden from public view and weren’t filed with the state comptroller for several years](#). The records covered Troop F, which primarily patrols Logan Airport and parts of the Seaport. Governor Baker called the concealment of the records “clearly deliberate.”

INVESTIGATIONS

Mar 2018

Eight more troopers face investigation for the apparent theft of overtime pay within the agency’s Troop E division.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Feb 2018

Trooper Leigha Genduso is suspended following [reports that she was a co-conspirator in a massive federal drug case](#) just years before her hire.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Feb 2018

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Risteen, the third in charge of the agency, and Major Susan Anderson **retire suddenly**. Both were accused of taking part in the decision to order a trooper to alter a report in the arrest of the judge's daughter. Sources identify Risteen as the former boyfriend of Trooper Leigha Genduso, who is embroiled in a separate controversy.

INVESTIGATIONS

Jan 2018

State Police officials announced they are working with the attorney general's office to **investigate whether troopers were paid for shifts they never worked**. The agency said it discovered payroll discrepancies during an ongoing internal audit. Few additional details were disclosed.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Dec 2017

Records show the two top State Police officials who retired abruptly over the arrest report scrubbing scandal **walked away with hefty payouts for unused sick and vacation time**.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Nov 2017

Two State Police troopers file federal lawsuits alleging top commanders forced them to alter a report regarding the arrest of the daughter of a Massachusetts district court judge.

INVESTIGATIONS

Nov 2017

Governor Charlie Baker announces his administration is **launching a review of the altered report case.**

INVESTIGATIONS

Nov 2017

Attorney General Maura Healey says her office is also investigating.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Nov 2017

Colonel Richard McKeon and Deputy Superintendent Francis Hughes **abruptly announce their retirements.**

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Nov 2017

Kerry A. Gilpin, a 23-year veteran of Massachusetts State Police, is picked by Governor Baker to lead the agency. On her first full day on the job, **she launched an investigation** into the controversy over the altered arrest report of the judge's daughter. She later named **Lieutenant Colonel Barry O'Brien** as her second-in-command.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Nov 2017

The daughter of the district court judge whose arrest report was altered **was sentenced to 14 months of probation**, had her license suspended, and was ordered to complete a residential treatment program after pleading guilty to drunken

driving charges.

INVESTIGATIONS

Nov 2017

The state Ethics Commission launches its own investigation into the altered arrest report scandal.

INVESTIGATIONS

Oct 2017

The head of a State Police crime lab office is fired after [investigators found that staff withheld exculpatory evidence](#) from defense lawyers in thousands of drunken-driving cases since 2011, a disclosure that could threaten many convictions.

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Oct 2017

Following a six-month investigation, WCVB found [several troopers used questionable methods](#) to “beat the system and collect extra pay for work not done.”

PAYROLL, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Mar 2017

Trooper Eric Chin, the highest-paid member of State Police in 2016, [was put on desk duty amid an internal investigation](#) into whether he worked all the hours he claimed.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Feb 2017

The Associated Press, via the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, reports “a Massachusetts State Police trooper is [under investigation for allegedly video and audio recording](#) traffic stops and arrests without departmental approval.” The trooper was later suspended without pay for a year and a half, a local TV station reported, citing sources.

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

Sep 2016

Three troopers are [suspended for allegedly selling hundreds of used State Police guns](#) to a firearms dealer, then receiving more than a dozen weapons for free. Attorney General Maura Healey launched an investigation.

Apr 2016

A State Police trooper is [charged with assaulting his girlfriend](#). During a court appearance, a history of abuse allegations against him were revealed. The department had placed the trooper on unpaid suspension. He was later indicted and arraigned again on additional felony charges, including rape, and it was disclosed that, while awaiting trial, he sent threatening texts to the girlfriend, also a state trooper.

INVESTIGATIONS

2014

Dookhan and Farak State Police crime lab scandals, which [continue to have fallout today](#)

CLAIMS OF MISCONDUCT

2014

Globe reports detail how State Police have been involved in a large number of **car accidents in which troopers were at fault**, including some cases in which troopers were drunk.

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