



## STATE POLICE TURMOIL

More

### State Police boss launches probe into union-related payroll fraud allegations



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

**Colonel Kerry Gilpin said an initial review found troopers were using a taxpayer-funded time-off benefit afforded to union members for illegitimate purposes.**

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 10, 2018

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

Colonel Kerry Gilpin said an initial review found troopers were using a taxpayer-funded time-off benefit, afforded to union members, for illegitimate purposes, according to a letter she issued late last month to the State Police Association of Massachusetts, or SPAM.

---

ADVERTISING

[inRead](#) invented by Teads

“SPAM officers and members cannot continue to receive compensation and benefits from the department to which they are not lawfully entitled,” Gilpin wrote in her letter.

ADVERTISEMENT



In response, the union, which represents nearly all of the agency's 2,150 officers, filed a complaint with the state labor relations department opposing changes Gilpin announced to union leave practices. The filing did not contest Gilpin's allegations.

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

The department uses public money to allow union members a limited amount of leave to participate in union activities. Gilpin believes troopers abused that privilege and said the department would crack down on the practice.

It's unclear whether an administrative or criminal investigation is taking place. A State Police spokesman did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday. Union officials declined to comment.

The back-and-forth comes amid a time of tumult for both groups.

The [scandal-plagued police force](#) is facing down sprawling state and federal criminal probes into

alleged payroll abuse. Meanwhile, the head of the union, Dana Pullman, [abruptly resigned](#) late last month amid a separate federal investigation into the possible illegal reimbursement of campaign donations by union members.

### RELATED LINKS



[Read Story](#)

#### Special section: State Police turmoil

Full Boston Globe coverage of the overtime scandal and other problems at the Massachusetts State Police.

### ADVERTISEMENT

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE. OFFER ENDS 3/18 Internet

Switch to Xfinity. Get \$100 with this offer. **\$59**

[Get It Now](#)

Equipment, taxes and other charges extra.

Gilpin's letter to SPAM was dated Sept. 28, the same day that Pullman resigned after six years at the helm. He cited "personal reasons" for leaving the union.

Gilpin's letter was included in the now-public labor complaint.

Gilpin wrote that a review of department records found union members had used union leave on days when they were not scheduled to work and to attend their own disciplinary hearings.

Gilpin said the department will start requiring advance written notices specifying why members need to use union leave. Gilpin also barred members from using department resources, including cruisers, for union business.

In addition, Gilpin said the department will move to end its practice of paying for two full-time union

positions via the union leave policy. She said the department will “make adjustments to past compensation and accrued benefits improperly granted.”

ADVERTISEMENT

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE. OFFER ENDS 3/18 Internet

Switch to Xfinity. **\$59**  
Get \$100 with this offer.

[Get It Now](#)

Equipment, taxes and other charges extra.

In its labor complaint, the union alleged Gilpin and other officials failed to bargain in good faith in unilaterally changing longstanding policies and practices surrounding union leave. Those practices have been outlined in language included in the union’s contract for more than a decade.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau @globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@boston.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).*

[Show 92 Comments](#)

**Top 10 Trending Articles**

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

- People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason
- Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.
- Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking
- Here’s what NFL free agent market looks like ahead of league’s legal tampering period
- The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla
- Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth’s last surviving child, dies at 102
- Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved
- Sharon principal placed on administrative leave
- This week in watching: The fall of ‘Arrested Development,’ the return of ‘Billions,’ and the power of punk
- A new service takes travelers from Boston to New York in a Tesla, for \$99
- Is David Backes putting himself in harm’s way?
- Who are you calling senior? For older folks, some terms are fast becoming radioactive
- Delta aims high for growth at Logan Airport
- Canada’s no-sex, no-money scandal could topple Trudeau
- Chances are ‘good’ that Whole Foods will sell marijuana products, CEO says
- Why teens need live theater in the age of YouTube
- Eliza Dushku: I worked at CBS. I didn’t want to be sexually harassed. I was fired
- Train like Tom Brady at his coming Back Bay TB12 center — or one of up to a dozen others planned
- Big money is flowing into podcasts. Here’s what that could mean for Boston
- David Krejci’s goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins
- Trump will seek more money for border wall
- In N.H., Bernie Sanders says now ‘Democratic candidates all across the board’ support his ideas
- Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

[Baseball News, Scores, Analysis, Schedules & More](#)

[‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue](#)

[David Krejci’s goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins](#)

[157 people, including 8 Americans, are believed dead in Ethiopian Airlines crash](#)

[Dana LeVangie the ‘heart and soul’ of Red Sox pitching staff](#)

[Merrimack, N.H., man allegedly impersonated police officers, first responders](#)

[Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York](#)

SPONSORED BY SCHOLAR ATHLETES



## Step 1: Four years of self-development. Step 2: Get into college

With college admissions growing more competitive each year, a holistic program like this one can help give students an edge. [More](#)

**Most Popular In Metro** →

### Subscribe Now

Digital Access

Home Delivery

Gift Subscriptions

### My Account

Manage my Account

Mobile Customer Service

Sign Up For Newsletters

### Contact

Help

FAQs

Globe newsroom

Advertise

Order back issues

### Social

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

### More

ePaper

News in Education

[Archives](#)

---

[Privacy policy](#)

---

[Terms of service](#)

---

[Terms of purchase](#)

---

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

---

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC