

Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State License Board

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees, January 2008 Through June 2008

INVESTIGATION I2007-1046 (REPORT I2008-2), OCTOBER 2008

Contractors State License Board's response as of October 2008

An employee with the Contractors State License Board (board) used a state vehicle for personal reasons and falsified board records to hide her actual activities when she was supposed to be performing field inspections for the board. The State incurred an estimated \$1,896 loss due to her personal use of a state vehicle from April 2007 to August 2007.

Finding: An employee used a state vehicle for purposes unrelated to her state employment and falsified board records to hide her engaging in activities unrelated to her board work during state time.

From April 2007 to August 2007, a board employee drove her assigned state vehicle 1,922 miles more than her job required. Using the standard mileage reimbursement rate applicable to state employees at the time, we estimate that this difference of 1,922 unauthorized miles cost the State \$932. In addition, the employee improperly claimed 29 hours of excess travel time for which she received compensation. Based on the employee's salary for that period, we estimate that this travel time, which the employee incorrectly reported, cost the State \$872. The employee also drove her state vehicle 189 miles during three days that she was on medical leave, at a cost to the State of \$92. Finally, in her daily activity log, the employee regularly misrepresented her physical location and work activities in order to hide that she was apparently engaging in activities not related to her job with the board.

Contractors State License Board's Action: Partial corrective action taken.

The board informed us in October 2008 that it is seeking reimbursement from the employee for the \$1,896 loss to the State resulting from the employee's personal use of the state vehicle and compensation for excess travel time. The board previously informed us that it had taken several corrective measures, including issuing the employee a counseling memorandum and a copy of the current departmental policy pertaining to incompatible work activities. The board also terminated the telecommute agreements of the employee and other board employees, and counseled the employee's supervisor to regularly review daily activity logs and other reports prepared by employees for accuracy and completeness.

Investigative Highlight . . .

An employee of the Contractors State License Board (board) used a state vehicle for personal reasons when she was supposed to be performing field inspections for the board, at a loss to the State of \$1,896.

