



State of New Jersey

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**December 18, 2014**

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## **State Comptroller audits personnel, fiscal practices at three municipalities**

The Office of the State Comptroller today released an audit that evaluated personnel and fiscal practices at the Township of Hillside, the City of Perth Amboy and Gloucester City.

The audit found that each of the three municipalities awarded its employees significant longevity payments that were not based on performance. While Perth Amboy and Gloucester City have taken steps to reduce such costs, OSC recommends that each of the municipalities seek to eliminate annual longevity payments and reduce overall severance payments in all future collective bargaining agreements.

OSC's audit also found 41 school crossing guards at the three municipalities were paid a total of approximately \$17,000 in unemployment benefits while they were actually working. A lack of review by the municipalities allowed these payments to occur, the audit found. Overall, OSC noted that the three municipalities paid unemployment benefits totaling approximately \$240,000 to school crossing guards over a two-year period.

In total, the audit makes six recommendations to improve fiscal and personnel practices at the three municipalities. The audit is available for viewing on OSC's website: [www.state.nj.us/comptroller](http://www.state.nj.us/comptroller).