



# State of New Jersey

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## **Office of the State Comptroller Review Finds State Police Internal Affairs and Disciplinary Processes Continuing to Comply with Professional Standards**

TRENTON – An Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) review of the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) released today found that NJSP is continuing to comply with professional standards designed to prevent discrimination. This review focused on the investigation and resolution of complaints alleging trooper misconduct. Although no significant violations were found, OSC did identify several steps that can be taken to further improve NJSP's process for handling such complaints.

Pursuant to state law, OSC is required to periodically review the performance of NJSP with regard to its continuing efforts to prevent racial and other forms of discrimination in its policies, practices and procedures and the state Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards' (OLEPS) oversight of those efforts. This is the fifth in the series of OSC reviews of NJSP and OLEPS practices.

OSC's current review found problematic that NJSP recently expanded the role of Troop Command in the review and classification of misconduct complaints to include investigative activities such as conducting interviews of the involved trooper and the complainant. Pursuant to NJSP policy, such activities are to be conducted by NJSP's Office of Professional Standards (OPS). OSC's report notes several concerns with this expanded role, including the potential adverse legal consequences, and recommends that the state Office of the Attorney General review the appropriateness of this new process.

OSC's review also examined a sample of trooper misconduct investigations conducted during the time period of 2015 to 2016. While OSC found no substantive issues with the handling of those matters, it did find that NJSP failed to complete about one-third of the investigations within the required 120-day time period. OSC recommends several improvements NJSP could make to ensure future compliance with this time requirement.

OSC also found that OLEPS and NJSP were not in full compliance with NJSP's Standing Operating Procedure regarding the weekly review of public complaints called into NJSP's complaint hotline. OSC recommends that OLEPS and NJSP ensure that the weekly reviews are, in fact, taking place as required and that such reviews are properly documented.

"Our review confirmed that the New Jersey State Police continues to make progress in meeting its obligations, and in fact, has implemented some revisions to its internal affairs and disciplinary processes since we last examined these areas in 2012. The current report identifies additional actions that should be taken to improve the process for handling complaints alleging trooper misconduct," State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said.

State Comptroller Degnan thanked the Office of the Attorney General, NJSP and OLEPS for their assistance and cooperation throughout this review.

This and all OSC reports are available on the Office's website at [www.nj.gov/comptroller](http://www.nj.gov/comptroller).

OSC is an independent state agency that conducts audits and investigations of government agencies throughout New Jersey. The Office also reviews certain government contracts and works to detect and prevent Medicaid Fraud. The Office strives to enhance the efficiency and transparency of government and to ensure that public funds are spent effectively and efficiently.

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