

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mary Jane Cooper, Inspector General

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Inspector General Issues 2008 State Authorities' Benefits Review Update

TRENTON – Inspector General Mary Jane Cooper today issued the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) 2008 Summary and Analysis of State Authorities' Employee Benefits Report. This annual report highlights the changes and modifications made by the State authorities over the past year.

“Since OIG's first reported on the variation of employee benefits at State authorities, a majority of them accepted OIG's initial recommendations to revise their employee benefit policies and procedures to mirror State guidelines where appropriate and feasible,” Inspector General Cooper said. “Significantly, in keeping with Governor Corzine's effort to reduce the number of State employees, the number of authority employees has decreased by 1,752 since our 2007 report.”

Similar to OIG's last two reports, this update focuses on employee benefits, bonuses, salaries, leave time, travel and entertainment allowances, cellular phone usages, health benefits and retirement. Where changes have not been made, OIG is cognizant that certain authority benefits provided are the result of the authority's enabling legislation, reasonable business decisions, or collective bargaining negotiations.

Highlights from OIG's 2008 update include:

- A reduction in the total number of State authority employees;
- Travel and entertainment policies of State authorities continue to become more consistent with State policies;
- Leave time policies of various State authorities have been modified to be consistent with State policy.

Executive Order No. 41 (Governor Richard J. Codey) directed OIG to assess the internal controls in place at 45 State authorities and make recommendations concerning what uniform practices and procedures should be established for all State authorities. OIG will continue to suggest that authorities be aware of and attuned to achieving an alignment with State practices and policies where appropriate and feasible.

This report is available online at OIG's web site, www.state.nj.us/oig

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