

HOUSE No. 5351

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT

OF THE

BUREAU OF WELFARE AUDITING

OF ITS ACTIVITIES

FOR THE PERIOD

SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1976.

(Submitted under authority
of Section 30T (6) of Chapter 7
of the General Laws)

January 10, 1977

HOUSING

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE,
BUREAU OF WELFARE AUDITING,
1 ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 501, BOSTON 02108, October 29, 1976

SEPTEMBER REPORT OF
THE BUREAU OF WELFARE AUDITING

To: His Excellency Michael S. Dukakis, Governor
Clerk of the Senate
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to G.L., c. 7, s. 30T (6), the Bureau of Welfare Auditing, by its Director, submits this report of its activities for the period from September 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976.

During this month four hundred and sixty (460) complaints were received by this Bureau alleging a wrongful receipt or claim for payment under assistance programs administered by the Department of Public Welfare.

The chart below indicates the category and source of the referral of these complaints.

September 1, 1976 — September 30, 1976

| | | *CASE | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | | CATEGORY | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | Tot. |
| **SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS | DPW | 1 | — | 45 | 292 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 1 | 375 |
| | CIT | 1 | — | 20 | 48 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | — | 85 |
| | TOTAL | 2 | — | 65 | 340 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 23 | 11 | 1 | 460 |

***CASE CATEGORIES**

1. Medical Vendor Investigations
2. State Employee Investigations
3. Undeclared Contributor of Income in the Home
4. Unreported Income
5. Receipt of Multiple Payments/Benefits
6. Check Investigations
7. Residency Requirements Are Not Met
8. Ineligible/Non-Existent Recipient
10. Food Stamp Investigations
11. Non-Medical Vendor Investigations

****SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS**

DPW: Complaints received from Department of Public Welfare

CIT: Complaints received from General Public and Otherwise

Seven (7) cases indicating possible fraudulent receipt of or claim for payment from the Department of Public Welfare were reported in September by this Bureau to the Attorney General for fraud evaluation and for such action as he may deem appropriate. Those cases are described below:

| <u>Number of Cases</u> | <u>Case Category</u> | <u>Region</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Vendor Investigation | Boston |
| 2 | Unreported Income | Greater Boston |
| 1 | Unreported Income | Brockton |
| 1 | Unreported Income | Lawrence |
| 1 | Unreported Income | New Bedford |
| 1 | Undeclared Contributor of Income in the Home | Springfield |

Two (2) additional criminal complaints were filed this month by the Bureau in the Commonwealth's district courts relative to welfare recipient violations.

Eighteen (18) criminal cases of alleged welfare fraud investigated by this Bureau were prosecuted in September. Nine defendants were

found "guilty" with most of them given a suspended jail sentence and/or probation with a court order to fully repay the welfare funds obtained by fraud. The remaining nine cases were "continued without a finding" with court orders of restitution in all but one of the cases. The total amount of money repaid or ordered to be repaid to the Commonwealth in these cases was Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Nine and 10/100 (\$50,639.10) Dollars.

Also, during this last calendar quarter, we were responsible for the closing or correction of 16 welfare assistance cases which, following our investigation, were found to contain overpayments. These cases represent total estimated savings of Sixty-Eight Thousand (\$68,000.00) Dollars.

Following a lengthy investigation by this Bureau into the Medicaid practices of the former owner of a chain of eleven nursing homes in the Commonwealth, a Plymouth County grand jury this month returned three indictments containing a total of 47 counts of larceny against the nursing home operator. Trial in this case is expected sometime during the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

RAYMOND F. JOWDY
Director, Bureau of Welfare Auditing





