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## OHIO HOUSE BILL 66 – FRAUD HOTLINE NOTICE

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In 2003, then Auditor of State Betty Montgomery created the Auditor of State's fraud hotline. The hotline was established as a way for all Ohioans to report potential fraud throughout government.

Recently passed legislation House Bill 66 (HB 66) makes several changes to the Auditor of State's fraud hotline. The bill requires the Auditor of State to maintain a system for the reporting of fraud, including misuse of public money by any public official or office. The system allows all Ohio citizens the opportunity to make anonymous complaints through a toll-free telephone number, the Auditor of State's website, or through the United States' mail.

The Auditor of State is required to keep a log of all complaints filed. The log is a public record under Section 149.43 of the Revised Code and must contain the following: the date the complaint was received, a general description of the nature of the complaint, the name of the public office or agency with regard to which the complaint is directed, and a general description of the status of the review by the Auditor's office. Information in the log may be redacted if Section 149.43 of the Revised Code or another statute provides an applicable exemption. During the course of Auditor of State investigations, information will be redacted pursuant to Section 149.43(A)(2) in order to conduct thorough investigations.

On the bill's effective date, May 4, 2012, public offices, including community schools, must make their employees aware of the fraud-reporting system. Public offices also must provide information about the fraud reporting system to all new hires. All new employees must confirm that they received this information within thirty days after beginning employment.

Section 117.103 also requires the Auditor of State to confirm that public offices have so notified new employees. Therefore, in accordance with the law, please review the following for reporting a complaint:

### How to Report a Fraud Complaint

The Ohio Auditor of State's office maintains a system for the reporting of fraud, including misuse of public money by any official or office. The system allows all Ohio citizens, including public employees, the opportunity to make anonymous complaints through a toll free number, the Auditor of State's website, or through the United States mail.

#### **Auditor of State's fraud contact information:**

Telephone: 1-866-FRAUD OH (1-866-372-8364)  
US Mail: Ohio Auditor of State's office  
Special Investigations Unit  
88 East Broad Street  
P.O. Box 1140  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Web: [www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)

The legislation also extends the current whistle-blower protections contained in Section 124.341 of the Revised Code to employees who file a complaint with the new fraud-reporting system. If a classified or unclassified employee becomes aware of a situation and reports it to the Auditor of State's fraud-reporting system, the employee is protected against certain retaliatory or disciplinary actions. If retaliatory or disciplinary action is taken against the employee, the employee has the right to appeal with the State Personnel Board of Review.

**Acknowledgement of receipt of Auditor of State fraud reporting-system information**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 117.103(B)(1), a public office shall provide information about the Ohio fraud-reporting system and the means of reporting fraud to each new employee upon employment with the public office.

Each new employee has thirty days after beginning employment to confirm receipt of this information.

By signing below you are acknowledging Shawnee State University provided you information about the fraud-reporting system as described by Section 117.103(A) of the Revised Code, and that you read and understand the information provided. You are also acknowledging you have received and read the information regarding Section 124.341 of the Revised Code and the protections you are provided as a classified or unclassified employee if you use the before-mentioned fraud reporting system.

I \_\_\_\_\_, have read the information provided by my employer regarding the fraud-reporting system operated by the Ohio Auditor of State's office. I further state that the undersigned signature acknowledges receipt of this information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME, TITLE, AND DEPARTMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE SIGN NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE