



John Keel, CPA  
State Auditor

A Special Investigations Unit Report -  
Travel Vouchers

April 24, 2013

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

The State Auditor's Office's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigated allegations that the chief of staff for a member of the House of Representatives had falsified travel vouchers.

The results of the SIU's investigation led to the Public Integrity Unit of the Travis County District Attorney's Office obtaining two indictments for John Higgins, Jr. on April 10, 2013. The first indictment charged Mr. Higgins with 11 counts of tampering with governmental record, which is a state jail felony. The second indictment charged Mr. Higgins with one count of securing execution of a document by deception with a value of \$1,500 or more but less than \$20,000, which is a state jail felony. State jail felonies carry a maximum penalty of two years in a state jail and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

If you have any questions, please contact Ralph Disher, Supervising Investigator, or me at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

John Keel, CPA  
State Auditor

cc: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas  
Mr. Steven Adrian, House of Representatives, House Business Operations  
The Honorable Rosemary Lehmborg, Travis County District Attorney  
Mr. Gregg Cox, Director, Special Prosecution Division,  
Travis County District Attorney's Office

The State Auditor's Office's Special Investigations Unit investigates reports of illegal activity involving state agencies and universities and refers the results to prosecuting authorities.

Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, requires state agencies and universities to report suspected fraud or unlawful conduct to the State Auditor's Office if there are facts that point to fraud or unlawful conduct.

To report suspected illegal activity, call 1-800-TX-AUDIT (1-800-892-8348), send a fax to (512) 936-9400, visit <http://sao.fraud.state.tx.us>, or mail information to the State Auditor's Office, Attn: SIU, P.O. Box 12067, Austin, TX 78711.





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