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FOUR MORE TROOPERS CAUGHT UP IN OVERTIME SCANDAL

Four new state troopers have been placed on leave as part of the ongoing overtime earnings scandal, the Massachusetts State Police said Monday.

"Today's actions are the result of our continued review of records and data indicative of whether Department members were present and working overtime shifts for which they were paid," said Col. Kerry Gilpin, superintendent of the State Police, in a statement. "Our commitment to the public, and to the vast majority of Troopers who conduct themselves with integrity and dedication to duty every day, is to identify anyone who has violated their oath, and we continue to do just that."

The State Police launched an internal investigation last fall into questionable overtime shifts to identify discrepancies between overtime pay earned and actual hours worked. The attorney general's office launched its own investigation soon after.

Less than a year later, five state troopers have been arrested, and one has pleaded guilty.

The State Police has opened Internal Affairs cases for the four new troopers and referred information to state and federal prosecutors for their review. According to the agency, the names of 46 troopers have been referred to the United States Attorney and state Attorney General's office for criminal investigation due to questions about whether they collected payment for unworked overtime shifts.

The announcement also comes on the same day that The Boston Globe reported that state police had clear red flags of payroll fraud at least as early as 2014 and that the agency did little about it.

Gov. Charlie Baker, who tasked Col. Gilpin with cleaning up the State Police, has called the overtime scandal a "conspiracy" that goes back "many years." - Chris Triunfo/SHNS

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