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## State Comptroller praises Civil Service Commission for delivering “wake-up call” on sick time abuse

### The Comptroller’s Office, which sought the ruling, will intensify its monitoring of sick time usage

State Comptroller Matthew Boxer applauded the Civil Service Commission today for its recent ruling which makes clear that sick days cannot be used by public employees for personal business.

In light of the ruling, which came at the request of the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), Boxer said the OSC would intensify its focus on sick time usage to make sure the state’s Civil Service law is not being violated in other municipalities.

“The Civil Service Commission’s ruling should act as a wake-up call to public entities across the state,” Boxer said. “There is a reason sick time is called sick time. It’s a benefit for those who are ill, not an opportunity to avoid showing up for work.”

The Commission’s ruling came after the OSC conducted a preliminary inquiry into the sick leave policy of a Woodbridge Fire District and found the policy appeared to violate Civil Service rules. A provision in the collective bargaining agreement between Woodbridge Fire District #1 and the firefighters’ union stated that “sick days are intended to be used by the employee for purposes of illness or to conduct personal business.”

In an administrative decision issued Jan. 13, the Civil Service Commission found the “personal business” clause was illegal and ordered the fire district to immediately desist from permitting its employees to use sick leave for purposes other than illness.

“This ruling is a common sense decision that sets an important precedent and looks out for the taxpayers of New Jersey,” Boxer said.

The OSC inquiry was initiated by a complaint from a Woodbridge Fire Commissioner.

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