



ITEF COMMENT



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“TROOPERGATE” OUTRAGES ILLINOIS TAXPAYERS

An analysis released by Illinois Taxpayer Education Foundation (ITEF) reveals just how much the Illinois State Police (ISP) is costing Illinois taxpayers. At the end of 2009, more than 35% of the 2,000 state troopers—that’s 743 people, to be exact—had salaries *in excess* of \$100,000. Leading the way were **Lt. Carl Anderson** at \$189,015, **Master Sergeant Manual Lebron** at \$184,863 and **Sergeant Walter Valentine** at \$175,452. Eighty-four employees made more than **Director Jonathon Monken’s** salary of \$132,566.

“The Top 100 ISP Salaries averaged an amazing \$142,000 per year,” said **Jim Tobin**, ITEF President. “This is outrageous because, with the possible exception of the state crime lab, virtually all of the state police force is superfluous and can be done away with. This would save Illinois taxpayers at least \$300 million a year.”

“Why does the ISP need 22 fingerprint technicians and 300 forensic scientists?” asked Tobin. “And why are there 129 Public Service Administrators at an average annual salary of \$85,000? What exactly do these people do for the Illinois taxpayer?”

“Is there a need for 700 highly paid supervisors for 1,100 troopers? Do these same troopers really need 56 Captains (average salary \$133,000), 78 Lieutenants (average salary \$121,000), 295 Master Sergeants (average salary \$109,000), and 234 Sergeants (average salary \$107,000) in order to do their job? I don’t think so.”

Commenting on **ISP Director Monken’s** “threat” to lay off 460 troopers, Tobin says: “Illinois taxpayers are currently paying top dollar for over 2,000 state troopers whose primary job is to generate revenue for their respective counties by ticketing those same taxpayers.”

“Monken estimates the expected loss in “citation revenue” to be \$12 million per year, but the cost savings would be \$58 million (which includes \$41M in salaries, \$5M in fringe benefits, and \$12M in pensions). So who cares if the government loses \$12 million in speeding ticket fines? Furthermore, if the state kept only the police lab, estimated savings would total at least \$300 million out of the \$410 million ISP budget.”

“Eliminating the Illinois State Police is an example of how Illinois state expenditures can be cut by \$300 million without reducing essential service.”

(To be concluded in part 2.)

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