

STATEMENT

Matt Dunlap admitted he was "utterly unqualified" to be Maine's State Auditor and failed multiple tests required for the job. Then, during his tenure, Dunlap failed to catch tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that were spent fraudulently, wasting your tax dollars while Mainers struggle to keep up with the cost of living.

Verification

When Dunlap Was Appointed State Auditor In 2020, He Admitted That He Was "Utterly Unqualified" And Went On Resign After Failing Two Of The Required Licensing Tests

In December 2020, Dunlap Was Elected State Auditor By The Legislature. "MATTHEW DUNLAP was elected December 2nd, 2020, and sworn in by Governor Janet Mills on January 4th, 2021, to be Maine's 21st State Auditor." (The State Auditor, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), Accessed 3/6/26)

By Dunlap's Own Admission, He Was "Utterly Unqualified For" The Job Of Auditor.

"Secretary of State Matt Dunlap has no background in finance, much less the formal qualifications to work as an accountant or auditor. But he's still put himself in the running to serve as Maine's next state auditor. The Legislature's Democratic and Republican caucuses will nominate their candidates Tuesday for state auditor, secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general. Dunlap, who is termed out as secretary of state after serving four, two-year terms, is the Democrats' sole candidate for state auditor, whose office is responsible for, among other things, making sure the state follows sometimes intricate [sic] requirements when it spends federal money. The full Legislature will vote to fill those four positions on Wednesday. With Democrats in control of both chambers, their nominees are likely to succeed, meaning Dunlap is all but assured to replace Pola Buckley, who is termed out after serving two, four-year terms as state auditor. For Dunlap, it wouldn't be the first time he has been elected to a job he is 'utterly unqualified for,' he said Monday. He had no experience overseeing elections or the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when he first ran for secretary of state in 2004." (Caitlin Andrews, "Matt Dunlap Wants To Become State Auditor. He'd Have 9 Months To Get Qualified," [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/1/20)

- **In Dunlap's Own Admission, It Was Not The First Time He Had Been Elected To A Job He Was "Utterly Unqualified For."** "For Dunlap, it wouldn't be the first time he has been elected to a job he is 'utterly unqualified for,' he said Monday. He had no experience overseeing elections or the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when he first ran for secretary of state in 2004." (Caitlin Andrews, "Matt Dunlap Wants To Become State Auditor. He'd Have 9 Months To Get Qualified," [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/1/20)

Dunlap Did Not Meet The Statutory Requirements But Planned To Become A Certified Internal Auditor In The Nine Month Grace Period Provided Under State Law. "The state auditor must be qualified to work as a certified public accountant, certified information systems auditor or certified internal auditor, or have passed the licensure exams for those positions, according to state law. But the law also gives someone without those qualifications nine months to earn them after being elected to the job, and it's not unprecedented for the person elected as state auditor to earn the necessary qualifications on the job. Dunlap said he plans to pursue the certified internal auditor route. He hasn't started the process yet — 'I have to get elected first,' he said — but he said he's confident he could meet the requirements in nine months." (Caitlin Andrews, "Matt Dunlap Wants To Become State Auditor. He'd Have 9 Months To Get Qualified," [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/1/20)

In October 2021, Dunlap Vacated The Office Of State Auditor After Failing Two Of The Three Tests Required To Become A Certified Public Accountant. "Matt Dunlap, the former Maine secretary of state who was elected state auditor by the Legislature in 2020, has vacated the post after failing to gain certification as a public accountant. Dunlap informed Senate President Troy Jackson by letter Friday that he had not met the legal requirement to remain state auditor despite taking courses and a battery of certification exams. Dunlap also informed members of the State House press corps via email Friday afternoon that he had fallen short on the exams and the post would

temporarily be filled by Deputy State Auditor Melissa Perkins. In his letter to Jackson, Dunlap notes he passed one of the three exams needed to become a certified public accountant, a requirement for the job, but failed two others, by four questions and one question, respectively. ‘I’ve taken all the exams, but have fallen short – just short,’ Dunlap wrote in an email to the Portland Press Herald, Maine Public and the Bangor Daily News. ‘I plan on retaking the exams, but the Institute for Internal Auditors won’t allow me to retake them for 60 days, putting me outside the statutory window.’” (Scott Thistle, “Dunlap Leaving Auditor’s Post After Failing Certification Exams,” [Kennebec Journal](#), 10/1/21)

In November 2022, Dunlap Was Reappointed By Senate President Troy Jackson To Be The State Auditor After Earning The Necessary Credentials. “Former Secretary of State Matt Dunlap has been reappointed the Maine state auditor after stepping down last year because he failed to qualify as a certified public accountant. Dunlap has now earned the certification needed to serve as auditor and was appointed by Maine Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, to replace Jacob Norton. Jackson issued a statement Monday saying Norton “had chosen to step back from this position” and that Dunlap would fill the unexpired term. (“Matt Dunlap, Former Secretary Of State, Appointed Maine State Auditor,” [Portland Press Herald](#), 11/14/22)

Introduction:

The Maine State Auditor is tasked with identifying fraud in state agencies and presenting his findings to the appropriate agencies so they could address them. Matt Dunlap’s predecessor identified that the MaineCare system was not accounting for the expenditures in compliance with federal law, opening up the program to fraud. Despite his predecessor’s findings and the findings of state agencies, Matt Dunlap failed to audit the MaineCare program until political pressure forced his hand. The following memo outlines Dunlap’s failure during his tenure as State Auditor.

Summary:

The Maine State Auditor is elected by a joint ballot of the legislature for the primary purpose of “all accounts and other financial records of State Government or any department or agency of State Government.”¹ The State Auditor is tasked with identifying fraud in the state government, not preventing fraud. After the Auditor identifies fraud in the government, he or she tasks the appropriate department with remedying the waste of taxpayer dollars. Unlike his predecessor, Matt Dunlap has shown that he is either ignoring fraud in the MaineCare program, or he was too “utterly unqualified” to find it.

On March 29, 2019, Maine State Auditor Pola Buckley submitted the annual state audit for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2018. On page E-122, Buckley identified that the MaineCare program had material weaknesses and noncompliance on how it accounted for and approved federally approved awards.² Buckley identified that the Department of Health and Human Services incorrectly accounted for payments on the state’s CMS-64 report. The CMS-64 report is a document states must submit to the federal government to identify “actual quarterly expenses” and anticipated costs.³

¹ (Chapter 11: Office Of The State Auditor, [Administrative Procedures And Services](#), Accessed 1/13/25).

² (2018 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/29/19)

³ (“State Budget & Expenditure Reporting for Medicaid and CHIP,” [Medicaid.gov](#), Accessed 7/30/26)

(2018-042)

Title: Internal control to ensure program expenditures are accounted for and reported in accordance with the Federally-approved State Plan needs improvement

Prior Year Findings: None

FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10

State Department: Administrative and Financial Services
Health and Human Services

State Bureau: Health and Human Services Service Center
Office of MaineCare Services

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CFDA Title: Medicaid Cluster

CFDA #: 93.775, 93.777, 93.778

Federal Award Identification Number: 1705ME5MAP, 1805ME5MAP

Compliance Area: Allowable costs/cost principles
Reporting

Type of Finding: Material weakness
Material noncompliance

(2018 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/29/19)

On page E-123, Buckley recommended that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) “implement procedures to ensure expenditures are accounted for and reported based on the Federally-approved Medicaid State Plan.”⁴

In December 2020, Matt Dunlap, who described himself as “utterly unqualified” for the position, was elected Maine State Auditor by the state legislature.⁵ Dunlap was not a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) but had nine months to complete the necessary tests. In October 2021, Dunlap had to resign as State Auditor after he failed two of the three tests required to become a CPA.⁶ Dunlap went on to become a CPA and was reappointed State Auditor in November 2022.⁷

On March 26, 2026, State Auditor Matt Dunlap submitted the annual state audit for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025.⁸ On page E-223, Dunlap identified that there was “significant deficiency” in the DHHS’s ability to maintain MaineCare federal awards in compliance with the terms and conditions of awards. Dunlap said that the department must “establish, document, and maintain effective internal control over Federal awards” to ensure the money is being spent in accordance with the law.

State Department: Health and Human Services

State Bureau: Office of MaineCare Services

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Assistance Listing Title: Medicaid Cluster

Assistance Listing Number: 93.775, 93.777, 93.778

Federal Award Identification Number: See E-65 to E-66

Compliance Area: Special tests and provisions

Type of Finding: Significant deficiency

Questioned Costs: None

Criteria: 2 CFR 200.303; 42 CFR 456.3 and .23

The Department must establish, document, and maintain effective internal control over Federal awards that provides reasonable assurance that the Department is managing awards in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of awards.

(2025 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/26/26)

⁴ (2018 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/29/19)

⁵ (Caitlin Andrews, “Matt Dunlap Wants To Become State Auditor. He’d Have 9 Months To Get Qualified,” *Bangor Daily News*, 12/1/20).

⁶ (Scott Thistle, “Dunlap Leaving Auditor’s Post After Failing Certification Exams,” *Kennebec Journal*, 10/1/21)

⁷ (“Matt Dunlap, Former Secretary Of State, Appointed Maine State Auditor,” *Portland Press Herald*, 11/14/22)

⁸ (2025 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/26/26)

Dunlap identified that Office of MaineCare Services’ Program Integrity Unit (PIU) is responsible for monitoring MaineCare’s utilization control (UC) program. The UC program is a federally required system set up by the state aimed at safeguarding “against unnecessary or inappropriate utilization of care, services, and excess payments.”⁹ Dunlap found that the PIU “could not provide documentation of the methodology used to identify projects and post-payment reviews performed in relation to surveillance of all Medicaid services provided under the State plan.”¹⁰

Dunlap identified the potential for fraud after the political pressures forced his hand. In December 2025, a whistleblower came forward and alleged that a Portland based organization, Gateway Community Services, defrauded the MaineCare system by charging the program with services that were never rendered.¹¹ The scandal led to the state ending payments to the organization and Dunlap revealing that the program would be included in the state’s audit.¹² Despite there being evidence of fraud for years, Dunlap, by his own admission, never audited the program. On page E-223, Dunlap indicated that there were no “prior year findings.”¹³ By indicating that there were no “prior year findings” Dunlap showed that he either failed to audit the MaineCare program or he did and was too incompetent to identify the fraud.

(2025-064)

Title: Internal control over Medicaid utilization control needs improvement

Prior Year Findings: None

(2025 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/26/26)

NOTE: Had Dunlap identified fraud in the MaineCare program, he would have indicated it in a chart like he did in other sections throughout the audit seen below.

Prior Year Findings:		Prior Year Findings:				
FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20
2024-003	2023-013	2024-004	2023-015	2022-011	2021-008	2020-007

Dunlap’s admission that he did not audit the program tasked with rooting out fraud in the MaineCare program is a troubling admission given findings from other audits done by various departments dating back a decade. From 2016 to 2017, the Maine DHHS preformed an audit of Gateway Community Services and found that there were over \$125,000 in overpayments.¹⁴ In 2017 and 2018, an audit was conducted by the DHHS and found over \$775,000 in overpayments to Gateway Community Services. A final audit was conducted in 2023 and found that the organization had fraudulently billed the state over \$1,000,000 in 2021 and 2023.¹⁵ More recently, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General found that the state of Maine made \$45.6 million in improper MaineCare payments for autism services.¹⁶

Bottom Line: It was Matt Dunlap’s responsibility as State Auditor to identify fraud in the MaineCare program and report it to the state Department Of Health And Human Services, but he failed to do so. Dunlap either was not looking for the fraud, or he was too “utterly unqualified” to find

⁹ (Maine Focused Program Integrity Review Final Report, [Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services](#), 1/26).

¹⁰ (2025 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/26/26)

¹¹ (Rick McHugh, “Maine Whistleblower Alleges Minnesota-Like Fraud In State’s Medicaid Program,” [News Nation](#), 12/8/25)

¹² (Sawyer Loftus, “Maine Stops Payments To Embattled Health Care Provider Facing Fraud Allegations,” [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/23/25; Jackie Mundry And Russ Reed, “Maine DHHS Suspends Payments To Gateway Community Services After Audit Reveals \$1 Million Overpayment,” [WMTW](#), 1/13/26)

¹³ (2025 Maine State Audit, [Office Of The State Auditor](#), 3/26/26)

¹⁴ (Edward Tomic And Steve Robinson, “Somali-American Received Millions In U.S. Taxpayer Dollars, MaineCare Funding While Claiming To Bankroll Jubaland Militia,” [The Maine Wire](#), 3/21/25)

¹⁵ (Max Williams, “Tracking The Timeline Of Fraud Investigations Into Gateway Community Services,” [WGME](#), 1/29/26)

¹⁶ (U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services, “HHS-OIG Audit Finds Maine Made At Least \$45.6 Million In Improper Medicaid Payments For Autism Services,” [Press Release](#), 1/22/26)

it. While Dunlap was asleep at the wheel, tens of millions of dollars was improperly spent until political pressure mounted and forced Dunlap to investigate what others identified in the decade prior.