

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 217

By: Long (Ed) of the Senate

and

Begley of the House

An Act relating to schools and state government; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 3909 and 3910, and 74 O.S. 1991, Section 213, which relate to audit procedures and reports, special audits and accounting services; removing requirement that special audit of Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education be performed every five years; removing State Regents from certain requirements for special audits; defining certain audit; providing for costs of such audits; modifying time limitations relating to certain accounting services; authorizing the State Auditor and Inspector to perform certain audits upon certain conditions; empowering certain entities to request special audits of certain institutions; removing provision that allows specific audit to be substituted for certain audit; deleting obsolete language; and clarifying certain cites.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3909, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3909. ~~(a)~~ A. In addition to such other audits as may be required of or desired by the various boards of regents responsible for the institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, each board shall annually obtain the services of an independent accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public accounting in this state to perform a complete financial audit for the preceding fiscal year of each institution for which the board is responsible. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall likewise annually obtain the services of an independent accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public accounting in this state to perform a complete financial audit of all the offices, operations, and accounts of the State Regents which are not subject to the control of other boards of regents.

~~(b)~~ B. Each board of regents shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of the board consisting of not fewer than three (3) board members. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for establishing the qualifications of any accounting firm or individual seeking to be hired to perform an audit for the board and shall recommend to the board the firms or individuals whom the board shall invite to submit competitive bids. The full board shall select the auditor from among the competitive bidders. Audit committees shall not

recommend any firm or individual unwilling to meet the following specifications. Said specifications shall be among the terms and conditions of any contract awarded:

~~(1)~~ 1. All revolving fund accounts, special accounts, special agency accounts, auxiliary enterprise accounts, and technical area school district accounts, if any, shall be included within the scope of the audit;

~~(2)~~ 2. Where operations of constituent agencies or technical area school districts are relevant to the complete financial audit of the institution, records of those enterprises shall be included within the scope of the audit;

~~(3)~~ 3. To the extent required by subsection (d) of Section 4306 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, records of college- or university-related foundations shall be included within the scope of the audit;

~~(4)~~ 4. At the conclusion of the audit, the auditor shall meet with the president of the institution and the Audit Committee to review the audit report to be issued, the management letter or other comments or suggestions to be issued, and any other findings; and

~~(5)~~ 5. Findings of material weaknesses, qualifications of the auditor's report other than those deriving from inadequate plant records, and of defalcations, or a report of lack of such findings, shall be communicated in writing to the board, the State Auditor and Inspector, the Legislative Service Bureau, and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education with or in advance of the filing of the audit report required by Section 452.10 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and such written communications shall include any responses or other comments which the president or the Audit Committee wishes to have included.

~~(c)~~ C. ~~The Whenever the State Auditor and Inspector, whenever he deems it appropriate, and at least once each five (5) years, or upon receiving a written request~~ request to do so by the Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Tempore of the Senate ~~or~~, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the governing board of an institution of higher education or the president of an institution of higher education, the State Auditor and Inspector shall conduct a special audit of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and of each other component of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education any institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. The special audit shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a compliance audit as defined in subsection B of Section 213 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The State Auditor and Inspector shall have the power to take custody of any records ~~he deems~~ necessary to the performance of the audit but shall minimize actual physical removal of or denial of access to such records. At the conclusion of the audit, the State Auditor and Inspector shall meet with the president of the institution and the Audit Committee of the board which governs the component audited to review the audit report to be issued. The report, when issued, shall include any responses to the audit which the president or the Audit Committee wishes to have included and shall be presented to the full board, the Legislative Service Bureau, and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education with or in advance of the filing required by Section 452.10 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The cost of such audit shall be borne by the audited entity and may be defrayed in whole or in part by any federal funds available for that purpose.

~~(d)~~ D. Each board of regents shall require the employment of a sufficient number of internal auditors to meet the board's fiduciary responsibilities. The internal auditors shall submit a report

directly and simultaneously to the audit committee of the board and the president of the institution; all members of the board of regents governing the institution, however, shall receive all internal audit reports and the board of regents shall, at least annually, review and prescribe the plan of work to be performed by the internal auditors.

~~(e)~~ E. Any person who alters or destroys records needed for the performance of an audit or causes or directs a subordinate to do such acts shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a period of not more than five (5) years or by a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Such person shall also be subject to immediate removal from office or employment.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3910, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3910. A board of regents shall not contract for or otherwise obtain the services of an independent accounting firm or individual to perform financial audits for an institution for more than ~~five (5)~~ three (3) consecutive years, ~~beginning with the fiscal year 1988~~. If an independent accounting firm or individual has conducted financial audits of an institution of higher education for ~~five (5)~~ three (3) consecutive years, the board shall not obtain the auditing services of said firm or individual for said institution for at least two (2) years.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 213, is amended to read as follows:

Section 213. A. It shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector to examine and report upon the books and financial accounts of the several public, educational, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions belonging to the state; to prescribe and enforce correct methods of keeping financial accounts of the state institutions, ~~by himself or duly appointed deputy,~~ and instruct the proper officers thereof in the performance of their duties concerning the same; to examine the books and accounts of all public institutions under the control of the state at least once each year. Any officer of such public, educational, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions who shall refuse or willfully neglect to comply with such direction of the State Auditor and Inspector within ~~such a~~ a reasonable time ~~as he may prescribe,~~ shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

B. ~~The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit on each institution of higher education at least once every five (5) years.~~ The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit on common school districts, and area vocational-technical districts, ~~and institutions of higher education~~ upon receiving a written request ~~requests~~ request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Tempore of the Senate ~~and the~~ or Speaker of the House of Representatives. The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit on any institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education whenever the State Auditor and Inspector deems it appropriate or upon receiving a written request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, the Attorney General, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the governing board of the institution of higher education, or the president of the institution of higher education. The special audit shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a compliance audit. The special audit shall be conducted according to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' "Statements on Auditing Standards". Such audits shall be designed

to review items for management's compliance with statutes, regulations, policies and internal control procedures or other items applicable to each ~~institution. The special audit shall be in lieu of the audit required by Section 22-103 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for the year in which the special audit is performed~~ entity. The costs of any such audit shall be borne by the audited entity and may be defrayed, in whole or in part, by any federal funds available for that purpose.

Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 1993.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of May, 1993.

Speaker of the House of Representatives