

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1254

By: Webb

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 212, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 192, O.S.L. 1999 (74 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 212), which relates to state agency audits; and authorizing the employment of an attorney for the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 212, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 192, O.S.L. 1999 (74 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 212), is amended to read as follows:

Section 212. A. STATE TREASURER

The State Auditor and Inspector shall examine without notice all books and accounts of the State Treasurer twice each year.

B. STATE OFFICERS

The State Auditor and Inspector shall examine at least once each year the books and accounts of all state officers whose duty it is to collect, disburse or manage funds of the state.

C. GUBERNATORIAL REQUEST

Whenever called upon to do so by the Governor, it shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector to examine the books and accounts of any officer of the state or any of the officer's predecessors. The cost of the audit shall be borne by the entity to be audited.

D. COUNTY TREASURER

The State Auditor and Inspector shall examine without notice all books and accounts of each county treasurer of the state twice each year.

E. DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

The State Auditor and Inspector shall make continuous examination and audit of the books and accounts of the several offices of the district attorneys of this state and the District Attorneys Council. The audits shall be reported in separate reports for each entity. The audit may include, but shall not be limited to, the audit of the financial records, performance measures, and compliance with state or federal statutes and rules, and compliance with any regulations of state or federal programs. The expense of the audits shall be paid by the entity audited.

F. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The State Auditor and Inspector shall make continuous examination and audit of the books and accounts of the several divisions of the Department of Corrections. The scope of the audit shall be determined by the State Auditor and Inspector using a risk-based approach. The audits shall be reported in separate reports for each division. The audit may include, but shall not be limited to, the audit of the financial records, performance measures, and compliance with any state or federal statutes and rules, and compliance with any regulations of state or federal programs. The expense of the audits shall be paid by the entity audited.

G. OKLAHOMA STATE AND EDUCATION EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE BOARD

The State Auditor and Inspector shall cause to be audited the books and accounts of the office of the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB). The audit may include, but shall not be limited to, the audit of the financial records, performance measures, compliance with any state or federal statutes and rules, and compliance with any regulations of state programs. The audit shall be contracted out to private audit firms. The cost

of the audit shall be borne by the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board.

H. DISTRICT ATTORNEY REQUEST

Whenever called upon to do so by any of the several district attorneys of the state, it shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector to examine the books and accounts of any officer of any public entity. The cost of the audit shall be borne by the entity audited.

I. COUNTY OFFICERS BY REQUEST

Upon request of the county commissioners of any county or the Governor, the State Auditor and Inspector shall examine the books and accounts of all or any of the officers or custodians of the various funds of the county; and payment for such examination shall be made by the county so examined.

J. AUDITORS

The State Auditor and Inspector shall have power to employ auditors. No auditor shall examine the books or records of the county of the auditor's residence in counties of under two hundred thousand (200,000) population according to the most recent Federal Decennial Census. The State Auditor and Inspector may employ on an as-needed basis only, legal counsel to carry out the statutory duties of the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector.

K. EXAMINATION OF LEVIES

It shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector to examine all levies to raise public revenue to see that they are made according to law and constitutional provisions. The State Auditor and Inspector shall have the power to order all excessive or erroneous lines (levies) to be corrected by the proper officers, and shall report any irregularities to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

L. PETITION AUDITS

1. The State Auditor and Inspector shall audit the books and records of any subdivision of the State of Oklahoma upon petition signed by the requisite number of voters registered in the subdivision and meeting the requirements set out in this subsection.

2. The petition must contain the number of signatures equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the subdivision as determined by the county election board or, if the county election board determines that the number of registered voters in the subdivision cannot be determined due to boundary lines not conforming to precinct lines, the required number of petitioners shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of persons voting in the last subdivision-wide general election held in the subdivision. If the subdivision is a public trust, the required number of petitioners shall be the same as those required for an audit of its beneficiary. The appropriate county election board shall provide the number of signatures so required upon request.

3. The petition shall be in the form of an affidavit wherein the signatory shall declare upon oath or affirmation that the information given is true and correct and that he or she is a citizen of the entity to be audited. The petition shall clearly state that falsely signing shall constitute perjury. It shall include the signature of the individual, the name of the signatory in printed form, the individual's residential address, the date of signing, the public entity to be audited and the anticipated range of the cost of the audit provided by the State Auditor and Inspector.

4. Any person desiring to petition for an audit shall list the areas, items or concerns they want to be audited, and request from the State Auditor and Inspector the anticipated range of cost of the audit. Within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the request, the State Auditor and Inspector shall mail a petition form to the person requesting the information which shall state the anticipated range

of the cost and the items or concerns to be audited. The circulators of the petition shall have thirty (30) days from the date the petition is mailed by the State Auditor and Inspector to obtain the requisite number of signatures and return it to the State Auditor and Inspector.

5. Upon collection of the required number of signatures, the person desiring the audit shall present the signed petitions to the State Auditor and Inspector. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petitions, the State Auditor and Inspector shall present the petitions to the county election board located in the county in which the subdivision is located.

6. The county election board shall determine whether the signers of the petition are registered voters of the county in which the subdivision to be audited is located and whether the petition has the requisite number of signatures of such registered voters. The county election board shall certify the petition as having the required number of signatures or as failing to have the required number of signatures and return it to the State Auditor and Inspector.

7. The cost of the audit shall be borne by the public entity audited. Upon notification by the State Auditor and Inspector of receipt of the petition, certified by the county election board as having the required number of signatures, the public entity shall encumber funds in an amount specified by the State Auditor and Inspector, which shall be within the range of anticipated cost stated on the petition from any funds not otherwise specifically appropriated or allocated. Payment for the audit from such encumbered funds shall be made as work progresses, and final payment shall be made on or before its publication.

8. The names of the signers of any petition shall be confidential and neither the State Auditor and Inspector, the county election board nor the county treasurer ~~shall have authority to~~ may

release them to any other person or entity except upon an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.

M. PENALTIES FOR NONPAYMENT

The cost of any services provided by the State Auditor and Inspector shall be due and payable upon the publication of the audit. Any such costs not paid within ninety (90) days of the date of publication shall incur a penalty of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day from the date of publication.

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