

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7090

January Session, 2025

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING AND SCOPE OF AUDITS BY THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 2-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Auditors of Public Accounts shall organize the work of their
office in such manner as they deem most economical and efficient and,
<u>except as provided in subsection (d) of this section</u>, shall determine the
scope and frequency of any audit they conduct.

7 (b) Said auditors, with the Comptroller, shall, at least annually and as 8 frequently as they deem necessary, audit the books and accounts of the 9 Treasurer, including, but not limited to, trust funds, as defined in section 10 3-13c, and certify the results to the Governor. The auditors shall, at least 11 annually and as frequently as they deem necessary, audit the books and 12 accounts of the Comptroller and certify the results to the Governor. 13 They shall examine and prepare certificates of audit with respect to the 14 financial statements contained in the annual reports of the Treasurer 15 and Comptroller, which certificates shall be made part of such annual 16 reports. In carrying out their responsibilities under this section, said 17 auditors may retain independent auditors to assist them.

18 (c) (1) Said auditors shall audit, on a biennial basis if deemed most 19 economical and efficient, or as frequently as they deem necessary, the 20 books and accounts, records of operations and activities, systems and 21 data of each officer, department, commission, board and court of the 22 state government, all institutions supported by the state and all public 23 and quasi-public bodies, politic and corporate, created by public or 24 special act of the General Assembly and not required to be audited or 25 subject to reporting requirements, under the provisions of chapter 111, 26 except as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

27 (2) Each such audit may include an examination of any relevant 28 information concerning the department, commission, board or court of 29 state government being audited that is in the possession or control of a 30 private entity that has a contract with such department, commission, 31 board or court, and such information shall be provided upon demand 32 in a format prescribed by the auditors at no cost to the auditors or the 33 department, commission, board or court.

34 (3) Each such audit may include an examination of performance in 35 order to determine effectiveness in achieving expressed legislative 36 purposes. The joint standing committee of the General Assembly having 37 cognizance of matters relating to government oversight or the legislative 38 committee having cognizance of the department, commission, board or 39 court being audited may request the auditors to perform a limited 40 performance audit. As used in this subdivision, a "limited performance 41 audit" means (A) an audit of a specific program or entity pursuant to an 42 engagement agreement between the applicable committee and the 43 auditors that includes specific procedures for reviewing transactions, testing controls, analyzing data and any other tasks specified in the 44 45 engagement agreement, and (B) the report of the auditors is limited to 46 the results of the procedures performed and does not include a formal 47 opinion as to whether the audited entity's financial statements have 48 been prepared in accordance with accounting standards.

49 (4) The auditors shall report their findings and recommendations to
 50 the Governor, the State Comptroller and the joint standing [committee]

51 <u>committees</u> of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters 52 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies <u>and</u> 53 <u>government oversight</u>.

54 (d) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the auditors 55 shall submit a proposed schedule for the audits they plan to conduct 56 during the following calendar year to the joint standing committee of 57 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to 58 government oversight. The auditors shall audit any state agency more 59 frequently than biennially, upon the request of such committee. Not 60 later than July first of each year, such committee may request the auditors to prioritize certain audits or to conduct more frequent follow-61 62 up audits in cases where the findings of the most recent audit indicated 63 material violations of state statute or regulations by the audited state 64 agency during the following fiscal year.

[(d)] (e) The Auditors of Public Accounts may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of their duties. Any audit or report which is prepared by a person, firm or corporation pursuant to any contract with the Auditors of Public Accounts shall bear the signature of the person primarily responsible for the preparation of such audit or report. As used in this subsection, the term "person" means a natural person.

72 [(e)] (f) (1) If the Auditors of Public Accounts discover, or if it should 73 come to their knowledge, that any unauthorized, illegal, irregular or 74 unsafe handling or expenditure of state funds or quasi-public agency 75 funds or any breakdown in the safekeeping of any resources of the state 76 or a quasi-public agency has occurred or is contemplated, they shall 77 forthwith report the facts to the Governor, the State Comptroller, the 78 clerk of each house of the General Assembly, the joint standing 79 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight and the Attorney General, except that 80 81 if a matter reported to the Auditors of Public Accounts pursuant to 82 section 4-33a is still under investigation by a state or quasi-public 83 agency, the Auditors of Public Accounts may give the agency a

reasonable amount of time to conduct such investigation prior to theauditors reporting the matter to said officials <u>and committee</u>.

86 (2) If the Auditors of Public Accounts decide to delay reporting such
87 matter in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, the auditors
88 shall immediately notify the Attorney General of such decision.

(3) Any Auditor of Public Accounts neglecting to make the report
required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or any agent of the
auditors neglecting to report to the Auditors of Public Accounts any
such matter discovered by such agent or coming to such agent's
knowledge, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or
imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

95 (4) Any state agency or quasi-public agency that is the subject of a 96 report of the Auditors of Public Accounts that contains violations of 97 state statute or regulation, other than only minor or technical 98 recommendations, not later than six months after the issuance of the 99 auditors' report, shall report on the status of any corrective action 100 undertaken by such state agency or quasi-public agency to address such 101 violations, to the auditors, the Governor and the General Assembly, in 102 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

103 [(f)] (g) All reports issued or made pursuant to this section shall be 104 retained in the offices of the Auditors of Public Accounts for a period of 105 not less than five years. The auditors shall file one copy of each such 106 report with the State Librarian.

[(g)] (h) Each state agency shall keep its accounts in such form and by
such methods as to exhibit the facts required by said auditors and, the
provisions of any other general statute notwithstanding, shall make all
records and accounts available to them or their agents, upon demand.
Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no state agency
may deny the auditors access to their records or accounts.

113 [(h)] <u>(i)</u> Where there are statutory requirements of confidentiality 114 with regard to such records and accounts or examinations of 115 nongovernmental entities which are maintained by a state agency, such 116 requirements of confidentiality and the penalties for the violation 117 thereof shall apply to the auditors and to their authorized 118 representatives in the same manner and to the same extent as such 119 requirements of confidentiality and penalties apply to such state agency. 120 In addition, the portion of (1) any audit or report prepared by the 121 Auditors of Public Accounts that concerns the internal control structure 122 of a state information system or the identity of an employee who 123 provides information regarding alleged fraud or weaknesses in the 124 control structure of a state agency that may lead to fraud, or (2) any 125 document that may reveal the identity of such employee, shall not be 126 subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined 127 in section 1-200.

[(i)] (j) Said auditors shall audit, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-91g, the records and accounts of any private provider of special education services, as defined in said section. Any private provider of special education services being audited by said auditors shall provide any information said auditors deem necessary to conduct such audit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2025	2-90

GOS Joint Favorable Subst.

APP Joint Favorable