

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 543

Short Title: Establish Key Indicators/Internal Audits. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McInnis, Edwards, and Woodard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 6, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR  
3 INTERNAL AUDITS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-746 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 143-746. Internal auditing required.**

7 (a) Requirements. – A State agency shall establish a program of internal auditing that:

8 (1) Promotes an effective system of internal controls that safeguards public funds  
9 and assets and minimizes incidences of fraud, waste, and abuse.

10 (2) Determines if programs and business operations are administered in  
11 compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and other requirements.

12 (3) Reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of agency and program operations  
13 and service delivery.

14 (4) Periodically audits the agency's major systems and controls, including:

15 a. Accounting systems and controls.

16 b. Administrative systems and controls.

17 c. Information technology systems and controls.

18 (a1) Key Performance Indicators. – In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of  
19 this section, each agency head shall be responsible for that agency's internal audit unit meeting  
20 the required key indicators established by the Council under G.S. 143-747(c)(3a).

21 (b) Internal Audit Standards. – Internal audits shall comply with current Standards for the  
22 Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute for Internal Auditors or, if  
23 appropriate, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United  
24 States. Each agency head shall annually certify to the Council that the audit plan was developed  
25 and the audit reports were conducted and were reported in accordance with required standards.

26 (c) Appointment and Qualifications of Internal Auditors. – Any State employee who  
27 performs the internal audit function shall meet the minimum qualifications for internal auditors  
28 established by the Office of State Human Resources, in consultation with the Council of Internal  
29 Auditing.

30 (d) Director of Internal Auditing. – The agency head shall appoint a Director of Internal  
31 Auditing who shall report to, as designated by the agency head, (i) the agency head, (ii) the chief  
32 deputy or chief administrative assistant, or (iii) the agency governing board, or subcommittee  
33 thereof, if such a governing board exists. The Director of Internal Auditing shall be  
34 organizationally situated to avoid impairments to independence as defined in the auditing  
35 standards referenced in subsection (b) of this section.



1 (e) Insufficient Personnel. – If a State agency has insufficient personnel to comply with  
2 this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall provide technical assistance.

3 (f) Reporting Fraudulent Activity. – If an internal audit conducted pursuant to this section  
4 results in a finding that a private person or entity has received public funds as a result of fraud,  
5 misrepresentation, or other deceptive acts or practices while doing business with the State  
6 agency, the internal auditor shall submit a detailed written report of the finding, and any  
7 additional necessary supporting documentation, to the State Purchasing Officer. A report  
8 submitted under this subsection may include a recommendation that the private person or entity  
9 be debarred from doing business with the State or a political subdivision thereof."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143-747 reads as rewritten:

11 **"§ 143-747. Council of Internal Auditing.**

12 (a) The Council of Internal Auditing is created, consisting of the following members:

13 (1) The State Controller who shall serve as Chair.

14 (2) The State Budget Officer.

15 (3) The Secretary of Administration.

16 (4) The Attorney General.

17 (5) The Secretary of Revenue.

18 (6) The State Auditor who shall serve as a nonvoting member. The State Auditor  
19 may appoint a designee.

20 (7) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation  
21 of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate pursuant to G.S. 120-121.

22 (8) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation  
23 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-121.

24 (a1) The Council shall hire an Executive Director as selected by a majority of the Council.  
25 The Executive Director shall serve for a term of four years and may be reappointed to the position  
26 by the Council. The Council may remove the Executive Director for misfeasance, malfeasance,  
27 nonfeasance, or neglect of duty.

28 (b) ~~The Council~~Council, including the position of Executive Director, shall be supported  
29 by the Office of State Budget and Management

30 (c) The Council shall:

31 (1) Hold meetings at the call of the Chair or upon written request to the Chair by  
32 two members of the Council.

33 (2) Keep minutes of all proceedings.

34 (3) Promulgate guidelines for the uniformity and quality of State agency internal  
35 audit activities.

36 (3a) Establish required minimum key performance indicators or criteria that  
37 comply with the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the  
38 Institute for Internal Auditors.

39 (4) Recommend the number of internal audit employees required by each State  
40 agency.

41 (5) Develop internal audit guides, technical manuals, and suggested best internal  
42 audit practices.

43 (6) Administer an independent peer review system for each State agency internal  
44 audit activity; specify the frequency of such reviews consistent with  
45 applicable national standards; and assist agencies with selection of  
46 independent peer reviewers from other State agencies.

47 (7) Provide central training sessions, professional development opportunities, and  
48 recognition programs for internal auditors.

49 (8) Administer a program for sharing internal auditors among State agencies  
50 needing temporary assistance and assembly of interagency teams of internal  
51 auditors to conduct internal audits beyond the capacity of a single agency.

- 1 (9) Maintain a central database of all annual internal audit plans; topics for review  
2 proposed by internal audit plans; internal audit reports issued and individual  
3 findings and recommendations from those reports.
- 4 (10) Require reports in writing from any State agency relative to any internal audit  
5 matter.
- 6 (11) If determined necessary by a majority vote of the council:  
7 a. Conduct hearings relative to any attempts to interfere with,  
8 compromise, or intimidate an internal auditor.  
9 b. Inquire as to the effectiveness of any internal audit unit.  
10 c. Authorize the Chair to issue subpoenas for the appearance of any  
11 person or internal audit working papers, report drafts, and any other  
12 pertinent document or record regardless of physical form needed for  
13 the hearing.
- 14 (11a) Gather and assess the extent to which State agencies have met the minimum  
15 key performance indicators required under subdivision (3a) of this subsection.  
16 The Council shall report its findings to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
17 Governmental Operations on October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter.
- 18 (12) Issue an annual report including, but not limited to, service efforts and  
19 accomplishments of State agency internal auditors and to propose legislation  
20 for consideration by the Governor and General Assembly."  
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**SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.