

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1004
(Appropriations Committee)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state auditor; to amend and reenact sections 54-10-10, 54-10-14, and 54-10-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the salary of the state auditor, political subdivision audits, and occupational and professional board audits; to provide for a prescription drug coverage performance audit; and to provide for legislative management reports.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the state auditor for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the state auditor, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$12,668,218	\$455,341	\$13,123,559
Operating expenses	1,161,820	209,883	1,371,703
Information technology consultants	<u>450,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>450,000</u>
Total all funds	\$14,280,038	\$665,224	\$14,945,262
Less estimated income	<u>4,173,178</u>	<u>1,652,974</u>	<u>5,826,152</u>
Total general fund	\$10,106,860	(\$987,750)	\$9,119,110
Full-time equivalent positions	58.00	3.00	61.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-sixth legislative assembly for the 2019-21 biennium:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2019-21</u>	<u>2021-23</u>
Copier replacement	<u>\$16,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total general fund	\$16,000	\$0

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 54-10-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-10-10. Salary of state auditor.

The annual salary of the state auditor is one hundred ~~seventwelve~~ thousand ~~eighttwo~~ hundred ~~eighty-five~~ ~~forty-one~~ dollars through June 30, ~~2020~~2022, and one hundred ~~ten~~fourteen thousand ~~five~~four hundred ~~eighty-two~~eighty-six dollars thereafter.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 54-10-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-10-14. Political subdivisions - Audits - Fees - Alternative audits and reports.

1. The state auditor shall audit the following political subdivisions once every two years, except as provided in this section or otherwise by law:
 - a. Counties.

- b. Cities, and when a city is audited, to include any political subdivision that was created by the city and has bonding authority.
 - c. Park districts.
 - d. School districts.
 - e. Firefighters relief associations.
 - f. Airport authorities.
 - g. Public libraries.
 - h. Water resource districts.
 - i. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.
 - j. Rural fire protection districts.
 - k. Special education districts.
 - l. Area career and technology centers.
 - m. Correction centers.
 - n. Recreation service districts.
 - o. Weed boards.
 - p. Irrigation districts.
 - q. Rural ambulance service districts.
 - r. Southwest water authority.
 - s. Regional planning councils.
 - t. Soil conservation districts.
 - u. Western area water supply authority industrial water sales on an annual basis.
2. The state auditor shall charge the political subdivision an amount equal to the fair value of the audit and any other services rendered. The fees must be deposited in the state auditor operating account. The state treasurer shall credit the state auditor operating account with the amount of interest earnings attributable to the deposits in that account. Expenses relating to political subdivision audits must be paid from the state auditor operating account, within the limits of legislative appropriation.
3. In lieu of conducting an audit every two years, the state auditor may require annual reports from ~~school districts with less than one hundred enrolled students; cities with less than five hundred population; and other~~ political subdivisions subject to this section, or otherwise provided by law, with less than ~~three hundred~~seven hundred fifty thousand dollars of annual receipts, excluding any federal funds passed through the political subdivision to another entity. If any federal agency performs or requires an audit of a political subdivision that receives federal funds to pass through to another entity, the political subdivision shall provide a copy to the state auditor upon request by the state auditor. The reports must contain the financial information required by the state auditor. The state auditor also may make any additional examination or audit determined necessary in addition to the annual report. When a report is not filed, the state auditor may charge the political subdivision an amount equal to the fair value of the additional examination or audit and any other services rendered. The state auditor

may charge a political subdivision a fee not to exceed ~~eighty-eighty-six~~ eighty-eighty-six dollars an hour for the costs of reviewing the annual report.

4. A political subdivision, at the option of its governing body, may be audited by a certified public accountant or licensed public accountant rather than by the state auditor. The public accountant shall comply with generally accepted government auditing standards for audits of political subdivisions. The report must be in the form and content required by the state auditor. The number of copies of the audit report requested by the state auditor must be filed with the state auditor when the public accountant delivers the audit report to the political subdivision. The state auditor shall review the audit report to determine if the report is in the required form and has the required content, and if the audit meets generally accepted government auditing standards. The state auditor also may periodically review the public accountant's workpapers to determine if the audit meets generally accepted government auditing standards. If the report is in the required form and has the required content, and the report and workpapers comply with generally accepted government auditing standards, the state auditor shall accept the audit report. The state auditor may charge the political subdivision a fee of up to ~~eighty-eighty-six~~ eighty-eighty-six dollars an hour, but not to exceed ~~five-seven~~ five-seven hundred ~~fifty~~ fifty dollars per review, for the related costs of reviewing the audit report and workpapers.
5. A political subdivision may not pay a public accountant for an audit until the state auditor has accepted the audit. However, a political subdivision may make progress payments to the public accountant. A political subdivision shall retain twenty percent of any progress payment until the audit report is accepted by the state auditor.
6. The state auditor may require the correction of any irregularities, objectionable accounting procedures, or illegal actions on the part of the governing board, officers, or employees of the political subdivision disclosed by the audit report or workpapers, and failure to make the corrections must result in audits being resumed by the state auditor until the irregularities, objectionable accounting procedures, or illegal actions are corrected.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 54-10-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-10-27. Occupational and professional boards - Audits and reports.

The governing board of any occupational or professional board shall provide for an audit once every two years by a certified public accountant or licensed public accountant. The accountant conducting the audit shall submit the audit report to the state auditor's office. If the report is in the form and style prescribed by the state auditor, the state auditor may not audit that board. An occupational or professional board may request the state auditor to conduct its audit, and if the state auditor agrees to conduct the audit, the state auditor shall deposit the fees charged to the occupational or professional board into the state auditor operating account. Instead of providing for an audit every two years, an occupational or professional board that has less than two hundred thousand dollars of annual receipts may submit an annual report to the state auditor. The report must contain the information required by the state auditor. The state auditor also may make any additional examination or audit determined necessary in addition to the annual report. When a report is not filed, the state auditor may charge the occupational or professional board an amount equal to the fair value of the additional examination or audit and any other services rendered. The state auditor may charge an occupational or professional board a fee not to exceed ~~eighty-eighty-six~~ eighty-eighty-six dollars an hour for the costs of reviewing the annual report.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM - STATE AUDITOR - PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE PERFORMANCE AUDIT - REPORTS TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. In lieu of the requirement under section 54-52.1-04.16 that the public employees retirement system contract to conduct a prescription drug coverage performance audit of the main public employees retirement system health benefit plan for calendar year 2021, the state auditor shall contract in accordance with chapter 54-10 to conduct a prescription drug coverage performance audit of the main public employees retirement system health benefit plan during the 2021-22 interim, in the

same manner as provided for under section 54-52.1-04.16, for calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Audit fees, not to exceed \$375,000, for audits performed under this section must be on a flat fee or hourly basis and be paid by the public employees retirement system board. The state auditor shall provide reports to the legislative management regarding contracts to conduct prescription drug coverage performance audits, performance audit results, and audit reports issued.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1004.

House Vote: Yeas 86 Nays 0 Absent 8

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2021.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2021.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2021,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State