

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2004  
(Appropriations Committee)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state auditor; to create and enact section 54-10-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to audits of the department of financial institutions; to amend and reenact sections 54-10-01 and 54-10-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the powers and duties of the state auditor and the salary of the state auditor; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative management report; and to declare an emergency.

**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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$13,123,559	\$945,944	\$14,069,503
Operating expenses	1,371,703	416,068	1,787,771
Capital assets	0	70,550	70,550
Information technology consultants	<u>450,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>450,000</u>
Total all funds	\$14,945,262	\$1,432,562	\$16,377,824
Less estimated income	<u>5,826,152</u>	<u>518,000</u>	<u>6,344,152</u>
Total general fund	\$9,119,110	\$914,562	\$10,033,672
Full-time equivalent positions	61.00	4.00	65.00

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Local government audit office furniture	\$0	\$9,000
Inflationary increases for travel and professional development	0	59,000
Audit software setup and migration	0	45,550
Capital equipment replacement	<u>0</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total all funds	\$0	\$138,550
Less estimated income	<u>0</u>	<u>37,000</u>
Total general fund	\$0	\$101,550

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The state auditor shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - 2021-23 BIENNIUM - REFUND OF AUDIT FEES.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$11,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state auditor for the purpose of refunding audit fees to a certain political subdivision, for the period beginning with the effective date of this section, and ending June 30, 2023. To be eligible for a refund, the political subdivision must have

been required to submit an audit report to the state auditor because the entity's revenue exceeded the audit threshold for a single year, pursuant to section 54-10-14 prior to the enactment of Senate Bill No. 2180, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, due to one-time funding and contracted with the state auditor for an audit.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-10-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-10-01. Powers and duties of state auditor - Report.**

1. The state auditor shall:
  - a. Be vested with the duties, powers, and responsibilities involved in performing the postaudit of all financial transactions of state government, detecting and reporting any defaults, and determining that expenditures have been made in accordance with law and appropriation acts.
  - b. Perform or provide for the audit of the general purpose financial statements and a review of the material included in the comprehensive annual financial report of the state in accordance with government auditing standards.
  - c. ~~Perform~~Except for the audit of the department of financial institutions as outlined in section 54-10-31, perform or provide for audits of state agencies in accordance with government auditing standards and legislative audit and fiscal review committee guidelines developed under section 54-35-02.10. Except for the annual audit of the North Dakota lottery required by section 53-12.1-03, the state auditor shall audit each state agency once every two years. Audits may be conducted at more frequent intervals if requested by the governor or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee. The state auditor shall charge an amount equal to the cost of the audit and other services rendered by the state auditor to all agencies that receive and expend moneys from other than the general fund. This charge may be reduced for an agency that receives and expends both general fund and nongeneral fund moneys. State agencies shall use nongeneral fund moneys to pay for the cost of the audit. If nongeneral fund moneys are not available, the agency may, upon approval of the legislative assembly, or the budget section if the legislative assembly is not in session, use general fund moneys to pay for the audit. Any budget section action under this subdivision must comply with section 54-35-02.9.
  - d. ~~Perform~~Except for the audit of the department of financial institutions as outlined in section 54-10-31, perform or provide for performance audits of state agencies, or the agencies' blended component units or discreetly presented component units, as determined necessary by the legislative assembly, or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee if the legislative assembly is not in session. When determining the necessity of a performance audit, the legislative audit and fiscal review committee shall consider:
    - (1) The potential cost-savings or efficiencies that may be gained as a result of the performance audit;
    - (2) The staff resources of the state auditor's office and of the state agency being audited which will be required to conduct the audit;
    - (3) The potential for discovery of noncompliance with state law or legislative intent regarding the program or agency; and
    - (4) The potential for the performance audit to identify opportunities for program improvements.

- e. Report on the functions of the state auditor's office to the governor and the secretary of state in accordance with section 54-06-04 or more often as circumstances may require.
  - f. Perform work on mineral royalties for the federal government in accordance with section 1735(a) of the Mineral Lands and Mining Act [30 U.S.C. 1735 et seq.].
  - g. Report to the legislative audit and fiscal review committee regarding final report distribution policies and practices and any final audit reports released to the public prior to distribution of the final audit report to all individuals charged with the governance of the audit client.
  - h. Perform all other duties as prescribed by law.
2. The state auditor may:
- a. Conduct any work required by the federal government.
  - b. Within the resources available to the state auditor, perform or provide for performance audits of state agencies as determined necessary by the state auditor.
  - c. Audit the International Peace Garden at the request of the board of directors of the International Peace Garden.
  - d. Contract with a private certified public accountant or other qualified professional to conduct or assist with an audit, review, or other work the state auditor is authorized to perform or provide for under this section. Before entering any contract, the state auditor shall present information to the legislative audit and fiscal review committee on the need for the contract and its estimated cost and duration. Except for performance audits conducted under subdivision d of subsection 1 or subdivision b of this subsection and except for audits of occupational or professional boards, the state auditor shall execute the contract and any executive branch agency, including higher education institutions, shall pay the fees of the contractor. For performance audits conducted under subdivision d of subsection 1 or subdivision b of this subsection, the state auditor may charge a state agency for the cost of a contract relating to an audit, subject to approval by the legislative assembly or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee if the legislative assembly is not in session. When considering a request, the legislative audit and fiscal review committee shall consider the effect of the audit cost on the agency being audited, the necessity of the contract, and the potential benefit to the state resulting from the contract. The state auditor shall notify the affected agency of the potential cost before requesting approval from the legislative assembly or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee.
3. Notwithstanding subdivision c of subsection 1 and subdivision d of subsection 2, the state auditor may not charge audit fees to an institution of higher education, agency, or office under the control of the state board of higher education, including passthrough grants, except for a proportional share of audit fees on federal programs or grants to the extent those audited federal programs or grants provide for allowable cost recovery. Institutions without an approved indirect cost recovery fund may not be assessed audit fees on closed federal programs.

**SECTION 5. 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 ~~twelve thousand two hundred forty-one~~thirty thousand dollars through June 30, ~~2022~~2024, and one hundred ~~fourteen thousand four hundred eighty-six~~thirty-five thousand two hundred dollars thereafter.

**SECTION 6.** Section 54-10-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**54-10-31. Department of financial institutions - Audit and reports.**

Once every two years, the state banking board shall provide for an audit of the department of financial institutions by a certified public accountant. The state banking board may request the state auditor to conduct the audit. If the state auditor agrees to conduct the audit, the state auditor shall deposit any fees assessed for completion of the audit to the state auditor operating account.

**SECTION 7. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICES.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying local government audit services and the challenges of political subdivisions to obtain auditing services. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

**SECTION 8. EMERGENCY.** Section 3 of this Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2004 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 46                      Nays 0                      Absent 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 91                      Nays 1                      Absent 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State