

LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 10, 2022

The Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee (LPAOC) met on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 11:00 AM in the LOB Room 212.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Rep. Keith Erf
Rep. Ken Weyler
Rep. Karen Umberger
Rep. Mary Jane Wallner
Sen. John Reagan, Vice Chair

The meeting was called to order by Senator Reagan at 11:02 AM.

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAY 10, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

On a motion by Representative Umberger, seconded by Representative Wallner, that the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting be accepted.

MOTION ADOPTED.

STATUS OF ONGOING PERFORMANCE AUDITS:

Stephen Smith, Director of Audits, provided the Committee with brief updates of ongoing performance audits:

- Non-audit review required by Chapter 91:454, Law of 2021 sent to legislative leaders – Confusion over the New Hampshire Retirement System’s healthcare subsidy for certain retirees – we issued a letter on the retirement system healthcare subsidy, dated May 23, that went to legislative leadership. At this point, no further action has taken place.
- Board of Dental Examiners – we finalized this audit, and it will be presented at the upcoming Fiscal Committee. This is a large report, and there are 36 observations in total. Part of the reason it is a large report, is due to the fact it reaches into some of the inner workings of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). This report will speak to a lot of the concerns LPAOC has had with the OPLC in the past.
- Mental Health Workforce Requirements – we are conducting fieldwork. This involves multiple boards and could potentially be prolonged due to meeting schedules with each board.

- Weatherization Assistance Program – work has been delayed, as this is a small operation, and they are currently in the process of another previously scheduled federal audit. They also received a lot of new money that they needed to work through the process to distribute. Additionally, we have had some turnover on our side. Completion is targeted for February/March.
- Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes – we are conducting fieldwork. There was an issue with receiving email addresses and information from local school districts. We received hesitation, as to whether they had the authority to release this information to us. It was confirmed through federal contacts that we could have access to that information. The scope statement as been approved.
- State Oversight of Special Education – in planning and the scope statement has been approved.
- HB1135 requires a performance audit of Education Freedom Account Program. This will not occur until sometime after the fall of 2023. This date was chosen by the Legislature to provide auditors with enough program activity to assess how the program is operating.

TABLED TOPICS, NEW TOPICS, AND PRIORITIZE AUDIT WORK:

Representative McLean, with Representative Smith, sought an audit of the NH Human Rights Commission. They were part of an interim study committee that found the Commission had long wait times for investigations, with a 300-case backlog, and thought a performance audit would be beneficial.

On a motion by Representative Wallner, seconded by Representative Weyler, that this topic be approved and added to the queue.

MOTION ADOPTED.

The Committee briefly discussed and decided that the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification topic be held off until late next year, as they currently have about ten observations from the dental audit they will be working on.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Senator Reagan congratulated the LBA for receiving the National Legislature Program Evaluation Society 2022 Impact Award for our Adult Parole Board performance audit. The LPAOC will send a letter to the Fiscal Committee, signed by Senator Reagan.

Senator Reagan was thanked for service to this committee over the years.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be at the call of the Chair. Senator Reagan adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.

Cindy Rosenwald
Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Chair