

LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 10, 2022

The Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee met on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 10:00 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
Rep. Lucy Weber
Sen. John Reagan, Vice Chair
Sen. Erin Hennessey
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Sen. Bob Giuda

The meeting was called to order by Senator Reagan at 10:00 AM.

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

The motion to accept the February 23, 2022 meeting was accepted.

MOTION ADOPTED.

STATUS OF ONGOING PERFORMANCE AUDITS

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

- The Board of Dental Examiners – we are in the process of report writing and working with the Board and Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). It has been a lengthy process, but the goal is to have a draft vetted by us, internally, to the Board and OPLC by the end of May. It will take approximately a couple of months for them to get through it, as they are volunteers and only meet once a month.
- Mental Health Workforce Requirements, Department of Energy, Weatherization Assistance Program and Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes – we will present scope statements for the LAPOC's approval. We are continuing with planning and with the approval of scope statements, field work will soon begin. Senator Giuda stated that he would be interested in seeing if there are any disparities between New Hampshire and other states regarding licensing; he specified other states having “stair steps” to certification and where disparities were within those steps. Senator

D'Allesandro stated his interest in obtaining more information regarding reciprocity among the states.

- Medical Subsidy – we have completed our work and drafted a letter, we're not calling it a report, which we vetted through the Department of Administrative Services and the New Hampshire Retirement System. We will give this to Mike Kane for his distribution to legislative leadership.

VOTE ON PRE-SCOPE AND SCOPE STATEMENTS:

On a motion by Representative Weber, seconded by Senator Hennessey, that the scope statements for the Mental Health Workforce Requirements and the Department of Energy, Weatherization Assistance Program performance audits be accepted.

MOTION ADOPTED.

Jay Henry, Performance Audit Supervisor, expressed his interest in beginning with the dispute resolution portion of the audit, and proceed with the Bureau of Special Education audit once auditors are freed up. After continued discussion, the Committee agreed to bifurcate the audit into two reports.

On a motion by Representative Weber, seconded by Senator Hennessey, that the pre-scope statement of Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes & Department of Education Oversight of Special Education performance audits be accepted.

MOTION ADOPTED.

IDENTIFY NEW TOPICS, OTHER BUSINESS AND PRIORITIZE AUDIT WORK:

The Committee discussed the HB 1135 requiring a performance audit of the Education Freedom Account Program. Senator Hennessey began discussion in regard to the effective date of this audit, and asked if the amended future date works better for audit purposes.

Stephen Smith, Director of Audits, informed the Committee that the new date of October 1, 2023 works well. The longer into the future, the more information and data we will have to evaluate. This is a house bill, and normally topics come from this Committee. In this case, it will be charged with statutorily, if and when it is approved.

Discussion followed regarding the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, and various complaints from various boards that were received. The OPLC is currently in a state of significant transition, and an audit at this point would be premature. Senator Reagan informed the Committee that this topic would be placed on the next agenda.

Two other topics were mentioned by Representative Weber as potential audits. The first was a review of the Secretary of State's Archives and Records; the second was public lake access. A member mentioned that there is a committee on public water access.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be at the call of the Chair. Senator Reagan adjourned the meeting at 10:48 AM.


Sen. John Reagan, Vice Chair