

AN ACT relating to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 43.050 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Auditor constitutes an agency independent of the administrative departments enumerated in KRS 12.020, it being the policy of the General Assembly to provide for the independent auditing of the accounts, financial transactions, and performance of all spending agencies of the state through a disinterested auditor, who is entirely independent of the state administration whose affairs he is called upon to audit.
- (2) The Auditor shall:
 - (a) Audit annually, and at such other times as may be deemed expedient, the accounts of all state agencies, all private and semiprivate agencies receiving state aid or having responsibility for the handling of any state funds, the accounts, records, and transactions of the budget units, and the general accounts of the state.
 - (b) Make a complete audit and verification of all moneys handled for the account of the state government by local officials charged with the collection of fees or other money for or on behalf of the state, when an audit is demanded in writing by the Legislative Research Commission, the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet or the Governor, and may make an audit when it is not so demanded.
 - (c) Examine periodically the performance, management, conduct, and condition of all asylums, prisons, institutions for the mentally retarded, and eleemosynary institutions; public works owned, operated, or partly owned by the state, or in the conduct or management of which the state has any financial interest or legal power; and state agencies. The examinations shall give special attention to the faithful and economical application of any money

appropriated by the state to the institution, public works, or state agency examined, or of any money in which the state has an interest.

- (d) Examine annually the management and condition of the offices of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, the State Treasurer, and the chief state school officer, to determine whether the laws regulating their duties are being fully complied with, and all money received by them for the state fully accounted for.
- (e) Examine, at least biennially, the Finance and Administration Cabinet's compliance with this section and KRS 48.111 and 56.800 to 56.823. Within sixty (60) days of the completion of each examination, the Auditor shall report his findings and recommendations to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.
- (f) Audit periodically all state revenue collections, and, if he finds that collections are not being satisfactorily made, report that fact to the authority whose duty it is to make the collections.
- (g) Make special audits and investigations when required by the Governor.
- (h) Investigate the means of accounting for, controlling, and insuring the safe custody of all property of the state, and verify the existence and condition of such property charged to, or held in the custody of any state agency.
- (i) Audit the statements of financial condition and operations of the state government, and certify in writing the results of the audit and examination with the comments he deems necessary for the information of the General Assembly.
- (j) Report immediately in writing to the Governor, each member of the Legislative Research Commission, and the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, any unauthorized, illegal, irregular, or unsafe handling or expenditure of state funds, or other improper practice of financial

administration, or evidence that any such handling, expenditure, or practice is contemplated, and any obstruction of the Auditor or his agents during the conduct of any audit or investigation of a state agency.

- (k) Assist the Legislative Research Commission at hearings and investigations conducted by it and cooperate with the Legislative Research Commission in the preparation of its reports to the General Assembly.
 - (l) Keep accounts showing the costs of his own operations and of each separate audit and investigation made by him, and the accounts he deems necessary to provide a record of warrants of the state outstanding as of the end of each calendar month.
- (3) The Auditor may investigate and examine into the conduct of all state and county officers who are authorized to receive, collect, or disburse any money for the state, or who manage or control any property belonging to the state or in which the state is interested, or who make estimates or records that are used as a basis by any state agency in the disbursement of public funds.
- (4) *The Auditor may investigate and examine into the conduct of all special districts located in the Commonwealth that are funded, in whole or in part, with federal or state moneys.*
- (5) *The Auditor may investigate and examine into the conduct of all water associations and fire departments created under KRS Chapter 273 located in the Commonwealth that are funded, in whole or in part, with federal or state moneys.*
- (6) The Auditor shall not be responsible for the keeping of any accounts of the state, except accounts relating to his own operations, and records of outstanding warrants. He shall not be responsible for the collection of any money due the state, or for the handling or custody of any state funds or property except in the process of counting and verifying the amounts of the funds or property in the course of the audits provided for in this section.