

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH70097-MM-30 (02/21)

Short Title: Modify Internal Auditing Statutes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hastings, Stone, S. Ross, and R. Brown (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE INTERNAL AUDITING STATUTES APPLICABLE TO
3 LARGE STATE DEPARTMENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Article 79 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

6 "Article 79.

7 "Internal Auditing.

8 "§ 143-745. Definitions; intent; applicability.

9 (a) For the purposes of this section:

10 (1) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Council of State member, a cabinet
11 secretary, the President of The University of North Carolina, the President of
12 the Community College System, the State Controller, and other independent
13 appointed officers with authority over a State agency.~~and the Superintendent~~
14 ~~of Public Instruction.~~

15 (2) "State agency" means each department created pursuant to Chapter 143A or
16 143B of the General Statutes, and includes all institutions, boards,
17 commissions, authorities, by whatever name, that is a unit of the executive
18 branch of State government, including The University of North Carolina,
19 and the Department of Public Instruction.~~Community Colleges System~~
20 Office. The term does not include a unit of local government.

21 (b) This Article applies only to a State agency that:

- 22 (1) Has an annual operating budget that exceeds ten million dollars
23 (\$10,000,000);
24 (2) Has more than 100 full-time equivalent employees; or
25 (3) Receives and processes more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in cash
26 in a fiscal year."

27 "§ 143-746. Internal auditing required.

28 (a) Requirements. – A State agency shall establish a program of internal auditing that:

- 29 (1) ~~Implements~~ Promotes an effective system of internal controls that safeguards
30 public funds and assets and minimizes incidences of fraud, waste, and abuse.
31 (2) ~~Ensures~~ Determines if programs and business operations are administered in
32 compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and other requirements.
33 (3) Reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of agency and program operations
34 and service delivery.
35 (4) Periodically audits the agency's major systems and controls, including:
36 a. Accounting systems and controls.



1 b. Administrative systems and controls.

2 c. ~~Electronic data processing~~ Information technology systems and
3 controls.

4 (b) Internal Audit Standards. – Internal audits shall comply with current Standards for
5 the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute for Internal Auditors or, if
6 appropriate, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United
7 States.

8 (c) Appointment and Qualifications of Internal Auditors. – ~~Any internal auditor~~
9 ~~employed by a State agency shall at a minimum have a bachelor's degree from an accredited~~
10 ~~college or university and~~ Any State employee who performs the internal audit function shall
11 meet the minimum qualifications for internal auditors established by the Office of State
12 Personnel.

13 (1) ~~Certification or licensure as a certified public accountant, certified internal~~
14 ~~auditor, certified fraud examiner, certified information systems auditor,~~
15 ~~professional engineer, or attorney; or~~

16 (2) ~~A minimum of five years' experience in internal or external auditing,~~
17 ~~management consulting, program evaluation, management analysis,~~
18 ~~economic analysis, industrial engineering, or operations research.~~

19 (d) Director of Internal Auditing. – The agency head shall appoint a Director of Internal
20 Auditing who shall report to (i) the agency head and shall not report to any employee
21 subordinate to the agency head, (ii) the chief deputy or chief administrative assistant, or
22 (iii) the agency governing board, or subcommittee thereof, if such a governing board exists.
23 The Director of Internal Auditing shall be organizationally situated to avoid impairments to
24 independence as defined in the auditing standards referenced in subsection (b) of this section."

25 **"§ 143-747. Council of Internal Auditing.**

26 (a) The Council of Internal Auditing is created, consisting of the following members:

27 (1) The State Controller who shall serve as Chair.

28 (2) The State Budget Officer.

29 (3) The Secretary of Administration.

30 (4) The Attorney General.

31 (5) The Secretary of Revenue.

32 (6) The State Auditor who shall serve as a nonvoting member. The State
33 Auditor may appoint a designee.

34 (b) The Council shall be supported by the Office of State Budget and Management.

35 (c) The Council shall:

36 (1) ~~Hold its first meeting before November 1, 2007, and thereafter~~ meetings at
37 the call of the Chair or upon written request to the Chair by two members of
38 the Council.

39 (2) Keep minutes of all proceedings.

40 (3) Promulgate guidelines for the uniformity and quality of State agency internal
41 audit activities.

42 (4) Recommend the number of internal audit employees required by each State
43 agency.

44 (5) Develop internal audit guides, technical manuals, and suggested best internal
45 audit practices.

46 (6) Administer an independent peer review system for each State agency
47 internal audit activity; specify the frequency of such reviews consistent with
48 applicable national standards; and assist agencies with selection of
49 independent peer reviewers from other State agencies.

50 (7) Provide central training sessions, professional development opportunities,
51 and recognition programs for internal auditors.

- 1 (8) Administer a program for sharing internal auditors among State agencies
2 needing temporary assistance and assembly of interagency teams of internal
3 auditors to conduct internal audits beyond the capacity of a single agency.
- 4 (9) Maintain a central database of all annual internal audit plans; topics for
5 review proposed by internal audit plans; internal audit reports issued and
6 individual findings and recommendations from those reports.
- 7 (10) Require reports in writing from any State agency relative to any internal
8 audit matter.
- 9 (11) If determined necessary by a majority vote of the council:
- 10 a. Conduct hearings relative to any attempts to interfere with,
11 compromise, or intimidate an internal auditor.
- 12 b. Inquire as to the effectiveness of any internal audit unit.
- 13 c. Authorize the Chair to issue subpoenas for the appearance of any
14 person or internal audit working papers, report drafts, and any other
15 pertinent document or record regardless of physical form needed for
16 the hearing.
- 17 (12) Issue an annual report including, but not limited to, service efforts and
18 accomplishments of State agency internal auditors and to propose legislation
19 for consideration by the Governor and General Assembly."

20 **"§ 143-748. Confidentiality of internal audit work papers.**

21 Internal audit work papers are confidential except as otherwise provided in this section or
22 upon subpoena issued by a duly authorized court. A published internal audit report is a public
23 record as defined in G.S. 132-1 to the extent it does not include information which is
24 confidential under State or federal law or would compromise the security of a State agency. An
25 internal auditor shall maintain for 10 years a complete file of all audit reports and reports of
26 other examinations, investigations, surveys, and reviews conducted under the internal auditor's
27 authority. Audit work papers and other evidence and related supportive material directly
28 pertaining to the work of the internal auditor's office shall be retained in accordance with
29 Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Unless otherwise prohibited by law and to
30 promote intergovernmental cooperation and avoid unnecessary duplication of audit effort, audit
31 work papers related to released audit reports shall be made available for inspection by duly
32 authorized representatives of the State and federal government in connection with some matter
33 officially before them.

34 **"§ 143-749. Obstruction of audit.**

35 It shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor for any officer, employee, or agent of a State agency
36 subject to the provisions of this Article to willfully make or cause to be made to a State agency
37 internal auditor or the internal auditor's designated representatives any false, misleading, or
38 unfounded report for the purpose of interfering with the performance of any audit, special
39 review, or investigation, or to hinder or obstruct the State agency internal auditor or the internal
40 auditor's designated representatives in the performance of their duties."

41 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law. G.S. 143-749, as enacted
42 in Section 1 of this act, applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2013.