

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 572

Approved by the Governor May 10, 1995

Introduced by Chambers, 11; Brown, 6; Schrock, 38; Maurstad, 30

AN ACT relating to housing authorities; to amend section 84-304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to prohibit examinations by the Auditor of Public Accounts; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 84-304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

84-304. (1) It shall be the duty of the Auditor of Public Accounts: (a) To give information in writing to the Legislature, whenever required, upon any subject relating to the fiscal affairs of the state or with regard to any duty of his or her office;

(b) To furnish offices for himself or herself and all fuel, lights, books, blanks, forms, paper, and stationery required for the proper discharge of the duties of his or her office;

(c)(i) To examine or cause to be examined, at such time as he or she shall determine, books, accounts, vouchers, records, and expenditures of all state officers, state bureaus, state boards, state commissioners, the state library, societies and associations supported by the state, state institutions, state colleges, and the University of Nebraska, except when required to be performed by other officers or persons, (ii) to examine or cause to be examined, at the expense of the political subdivision, when the Auditor of Public Accounts determines such examination necessary or when requested by the political subdivision, the books, accounts, vouchers, records, and expenditures of an agricultural association formed under Chapter 2, article 20, county agricultural society, joint airport authority formed under ~~Chapter 3, article 7~~ the Joint Airport Authorities Act, city or county airport authority, development district, regional council, drainage district, fire protection district, health district, historical society, hospital authority or district, county hospital, ~~housing authority~~, irrigation district, regional, county, or municipal library, community mental health center, railroad transportation safety district, rural water district, township, or the Wyuka Cemetery, and (iii) to report promptly to the Director of Administrative Services and the appropriate standing committee of the Legislature the fiscal condition shown by such examinations, including any irregularities or misconduct of officers or employees, any misappropriation or misuse of public funds or property, and any improper system or method of bookkeeping or condition of accounts. An examination of any volunteer department as defined in section 35-901 shall not include an examination of the volunteer department trust fund. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall appoint two assistant deputies (A) whose entire time shall be devoted to the service of the state as directed by the auditor, (B) who shall be certified public accountants with at least five years' experience, (C) who shall be selected without regard to party affiliation or to place of residence at the time of appointment, (D) who shall promptly report in duplicate to the auditor the fiscal condition shown by each examination, including any irregularities or misconduct of officers or employees, any misappropriation or misuse of public funds or property, and any improper system or method of bookkeeping or condition of accounts, and it shall be the duty of the auditor to file promptly with the Governor a duplicate of such report, and (E) who shall qualify by taking an oath which shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State; and

(d) Conduct audits and related activities for state agencies, political subdivisions of this state, or grantees of federal funds disbursed by a receiving agency on a contractual or other basis for reimbursement to assure proper accounting by all such agencies, political subdivisions, and grantees for funds appropriated by the Legislature and federal funds disbursed by any receiving agency. The Auditor of Public Accounts may contract with any political subdivision to perform the audit of such political subdivision required by or provided for in section 23-1608 or 79-2210.04 or this section and charge the political subdivision for conducting the audit. The fees charged by the auditor for conducting audits on a contractual basis shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the audit. The fees remitted to the auditor for such audits and services shall be deposited in the Auditor of Public Accounts Cash Fund.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or require the Auditor of Public Accounts to perform any auditing functions relating to the Legislature, the Legislative Council, the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, or any member of the Legislature.

Sec. 2. Sections 71-1502, 71-1503, 71-1504, 71-1505, 71-1507, and 71-1510 shall not be construed to subject housing authorities to audit or filing requirements by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Sec. 3. Original section 84-304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.