

Legislative Post Audit Summary of Performance Audits Currently In Progress or Approved

Audit Title	Main Concerns	Questions	Estimated Date Available for an LPAC Meeting
1 Kansas Board of Regents: Evaluating the Effects of Eliminating the Kan-ed Program Requested by: <i>Rep. Marc Rhoades</i>	The Kan-ed Act, passed by the 2001 Legislature, established a broadband-based network for schools, libraries, and hospitals. The purpose of Kan-ed was to provide a broadband Internet network for its members, and intranet access for distance learning and videoconferencing. In the 2011 legislative session, House Bill 2390 proposed eliminating Kan-ed funding. Proponents argued that Kan-ed has accomplished its mission, and that its members would not notice the difference in internet functionality if it were eliminated. Opponents argued that Kan-ed provides a needed service to many people at no charge, and that rural parts of the State still need this broadband service. Senate Substitute for House Bill 2014 requires that Legislative Post Audit conduct a performance audit of Kan-ed.	1. <i>What critical services does Kan-ed provide its connected members, and could members afford to pay for these services?</i>	Late January
2 State Employee Residence: Assessing Potential Increases in Revenues by Requiring State Employees to Reside in Kansas Requested by: Legislative Post Audit Committee	As of January 2009, about 5% of State employees lived outside the State of Kansas (most of whom lived in Missouri). These employees earn salaries in Kansas, but pay property and sales taxes in another state. Although many Kansas cities and counties have in-State residency requirements, the State currently does not. In May 2011, New Jersey became the first state to pass a law that requires all local and state employees to reside in New Jersey. As of January 2011, about 8% of New Jersey's local and state public employees lived outside of the state. Legislators have expressed an interest in knowing how much additional revenue could be generated by implementing a residency requirement for State employees, and what the potential drawbacks might be.	1. <i>How much revenue could be generated by requiring Stat employees to live in Kansas and what effect would that requirement have on the State's workforce?</i>	Late January
3 Department on Aging: Evaluating the Effect of Increasing Minimum Nursing Hours on Resident Care and State Costs Requested by: <i>Sen. Dwayne Umberger</i>	Kansas' Medicaid program provides significant funding for nursing home services for residents that meet established income and asset eligibility criteria. As of June 2010, more than 300 Medicaid certified nursing homes in the State served almost 10,500 Medicaid nursing home residents. These facilities provide a range of services to residents including rehabilitation, social, nutrition, and housing services. Legislators have expressed concern that Kansas' current nurse staffing levels are inadequate to provide a high quality of care, and that the fiscal note for Senate Bill 184--which proposed increasing minimum nursing hours in Kansas--might not capture potential offsetting savings that could result from reducing the likelihood of more serious health issues for residents.	1. <i>Do empirical studies and reports clearly identify a relationship between increased minimum nursing hours and quality of care outcomes or reduced health costs?</i> 2. <i>What would it cost to implement the minimum nursing staff hours standards recommended by Senate Bill 184, and what potential offsetting savings might result?</i>	April-May

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4 Foster Care: Reviewing Decisions To Remove Children From Their Homes Requested by: <i>Rep. John Grange</i>	Kansas' foster care program is administered by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The program is charged with protecting children who may be physically or mentally abused or neglected. If preventive services are not successful or if the danger to the child appears to warrant action, the Department may ask the county or district attorney to petition the court to place the child in the custody of the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Legislators have received numerous complaints from families who thought that SRS did not have sufficient justification for seeking the removal of their children from their homes or for keeping them away once removed.	1. <i>Did the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services have sufficient and convincing reasons to separate children from their families or to not reunite them?</i>	Late Summer