



MEMORANDUM

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TO: Members, Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
FROM: Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor
DATE: March 4, 2016
SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting House Bill 2442

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 2442, which would amend the Legislative Post Audit Act by limiting the reporting provisions for our information technology audits.

Background Information

The 2015 Legislature passed House Bill 2010 which included two key information technology provisions. First, as a response to one of our recommendations in a December 2013 performance audit of the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS), the bill established OITS as a separate state agency for budgetary purposes. Second, the bill established a new category of audits in the Legislative Post Audit Act—information technology audits. The bill currently before you would limit the reporting provisions associated with these information technology audits.

K.S.A. 46-1135 (i.e., the IT audit provisions of House Bill 2010) requires our office to conduct information technology audits at the direction of the Legislative Post Audit Committee. This includes two types of audits: (1) IT security audits and (2) IT project audits. The first type—IT security audits—examines the controls agencies place around their most sensitive data systems and provides the agencies with a detailed technical report listing the security vulnerabilities our auditors identify. The second type—IT project audits—involve continuous monitoring of ongoing IT projects, looking for signs that the project is at risk of failure.

Provisions of House Bill 2442 and the House Amendment

K.S.A. 46-1135 requires written reports on the results of both types IT audits be provided to several groups, including the agency being audited, the Governor, the three chief information technology officers (CITOs), the Legislative Post Audit Committee, and the Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT). We have no concerns with the reporting provisions as they apply to the IT project audits, as these reports will be publicly available anyway. However, we are concerned about making a wide distribution of the technically detailed IT security audits, which are kept confidential to as to not help a potential hacker.

As introduced, House Bill 2442 would have limited the distribution of the confidential IT security audits to the agency, the appropriate branch CITO, the Post Audit Committee, and the JCIT. These are the groups that we have typically shared our IT security findings with in the past. The House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security amended the bill to specify that the reports would also be distributed to the head of the appropriate branch of government—the Governor, the Legislative Coordinating Council, or the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. We agree with the amendment and think it served to strengthen the bill.