

Subject Office of the Legislative Auditor

Authors Quam

Analyst Colbey Sullivan

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Overview

This bill modifies various statutes pertaining to the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). Topics include special reviews, the duty to report suspected unlawful activity to OLA, and government data.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Staff; compensation.</p> <p>Requires OLA to establish a separate Special Reviews Division to fulfill relevant statutory duties.</p>
2	<p>Special reviews.</p> <p>Expands the scope of OLA's special review authority. Authorizes OLA to conduct a special review to investigate allegations that individuals and organizations subject to audit by OLA did not comply with any legal requirement. Authorizes OLA to conduct follow-up special reviews. Background: under current law and this bill, individuals and organizations subject to audit by OLA include state agencies, Minnesota State, the University of Minnesota, and various quasi-state agencies including the Minnesota Historical Society and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (Minn. Stat. § 3.971, subd. 6).</p>
3	<p>Obligation to notify the legislative auditor.</p> <p>Expands the obligation to notify OLA when an organization subject to OLA audit obtains information indicating that public money, other public resources, or government data may have been used for an unlawful purpose. Requires deputy and assistant chief executive officers (e.g., deputy and assistant commissioners), chief administrative officers, chief investigative officers, divisions heads, and, where applicable, board chairs, to report to OLA under this section.</p>

Section	Description
4	<p>Inquiry and inspection power; duty to aid legislative auditor.</p> <p>Authorizes OLA to require the production of data on state information systems without notification to or approval by the affected entity when conducting an audit of the entity's leadership.</p>
5	<p>Legislative data.</p> <p>Authorizes OLA to classify as private or nonpublic any data provided to OLA by a legislator or by legislative staff on behalf of a legislator.</p>
6	<p>Reporting alleged misuse of public resources or data.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner or other chief executive officer of each state agency to ensure that employee concerns about the misuse of public funds, other public resources, or government data are promptly directed to OLA or one of the obligated officers specified in section 3. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to develop a policy to standardize this reporting process across state agencies.</p>
7	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals a section of current law that (1) allows OLA to conduct certain performance evaluations, and (2) requires OLA to conduct these same evaluations upon request of the governing body of a political subdivision or the previously expired state Information Systems Advisory Council.</p>



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