

Act No. 412
Public Acts of 2004
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
92ND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2004**

Introduced by Rep. Palmer

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5457

AN ACT to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled "An act to provide a system of public instruction and elementary and secondary schools; to revise, consolidate, and clarify the laws relating to elementary and secondary education; to provide for the organization, regulation, and maintenance of schools, school districts, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and other public school entities; to prescribe rights, powers, duties, and privileges of schools, school districts, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and other public school entities; to provide for the regulation of school teachers and certain other school employees; to provide for school elections and to prescribe powers and duties with respect thereto; to provide for the levy and collection of taxes; to provide for the borrowing of money and issuance of bonds and other evidences of indebtedness; to establish a fund and provide for expenditures from that fund; to provide for and prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments, the state board of education, and certain other boards and officials; to provide for licensure of boarding schools; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," (MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 622a.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 622a. (1) In addition to the annual financial audit required under section 622, an intermediate school district is subject to an audit of the matters described in this section conducted by an independent auditor under the direction of the department of treasury under this section. An audit conducted under this section shall be based in part on an examination of an intermediate school district's accounts, financial records, and accounting procedures and shall address at least 3 of the following aspects of the intermediate school district's operations, as directed by the department of treasury:

(a) Whether intermediate school board members, intermediate school district administrators, and intermediate school district employees are adhering to ethics policies adopted by the intermediate school board or required by state law.

(b) Whether intermediate school board members, intermediate school district administrators, and intermediate school district employees are adhering to conflict of interest policies adopted by the intermediate school board or required by state law. This includes, but is not limited to, policies and practices with regard to contracts in which an intermediate school board member, an intermediate school district administrator, or an intermediate school district employee who is involved in the contracting process, or a family member of an intermediate school board member, an intermediate school district administrator, or an intermediate school district employee who is involved in the contracting process, has a substantial conflict of interest; and policies and practices with regard to an intermediate school district administrator negotiating, handling, presenting, or recommending a contract in which the administrator or a family member of the administrator has a substantial conflict of interest. As used in this subdivision, "substantial conflict of interest" means that term as defined in section 634(5).

(c) Whether a modification to an existing contract was made during the audit period that resulted in an additional financial obligation to the intermediate school district and the modification was not competitively bid. As used in this subdivision, "competitively bid" means that a contract was entered into through a request for information, a request for proposal, or a formal competitive bid process that was advertised and open to the public, and includes a contract entered into on behalf of the intermediate school district by a federal, state, or local governmental entity that performed a request for information, request for proposal, or formal competitive bid process or by a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association that performed a request for information, request for proposal, or formal competitive bid process.

(d) Whether the intermediate school district's policies and practices for responding to requests received under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, and the intermediate school district's actual responses to requests made during the audit period under that act, were in compliance with that act. This part of the audit shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of whether the costs charged for responding to requests exceeded the costs permitted under that act.

(e) Whether intermediate school board members, intermediate school district administrators, and intermediate school district employees are adhering to travel guidelines and practices adopted by the intermediate school board or required by state law.

(f) Whether the intermediate school district has accurately accounted for and reported all information relating to stipends, salaries, benefits, or other compensation paid to intermediate school district administrators.

(g) Whether the intermediate school district has used public funds in violation of law to pay for food, gifts, or other items that are not used for instructional purposes, as defined by the intermediate school board.

(h) Whether proceeds from a tax levied under section 681 for area vocational-technical education operating purposes or from a tax levied under section 1724a for special education operating purposes have been expended for a purpose other than the purpose for which the tax was levied.

(2) The department of treasury shall direct the random audits of intermediate school districts under this section as follows:

(a) The department of treasury shall select the intermediate school districts to be audited under this section on a random basis.

(b) The department of treasury shall announce between July 1 and July 15 of each calendar year the intermediate school districts that will be subject that year to an audit under this section for the immediately preceding school fiscal year.

(c) The department of treasury shall select 5 intermediate school districts for audit under this section every 2 years.

(d) Upon request by the department of treasury, the intermediate school district shall notify the department of treasury of the name, address, and contact person of the independent auditor selected by the intermediate school board to perform the annual financial audit for the intermediate school district. The department of treasury shall enter into an agreed-upon procedures agreement with the selected independent auditor, identifying the matters to be audited and establishing the rate of payment, which shall be no more than the rate the department would charge for the same type of audit. The department of treasury shall oversee the conduct of the audit by the independent auditor to the extent the department of treasury considers necessary to meet the purposes of this section.

(e) An intermediate school board and intermediate school district officials shall provide all information requested by the independent auditors or the department of treasury and shall cooperate with them to the fullest extent possible.

(f) The independent auditor shall submit an audit report of the audit to the center for educational performance and information in the form and manner prescribed by the center for educational performance and information. The center for educational performance and information shall submit a copy of the audit report of each audit conducted under this section to the department of treasury, to the applicable intermediate school board, to the senate and house standing committees having jurisdiction over education legislation, to the department, and, subject to subdivision (g), to the attorney general if the department of treasury considers it appropriate.

(g) If the department of treasury determines that an audit conducted under this section has disclosed that the intermediate school board or any intermediate school district official or employee has violated any state law governing the financial operations of an intermediate school district, the department of treasury shall notify the intermediate school district of that determination. If the intermediate school district disputes the determination or claims that the situation has been corrected, within 15 days after receipt of the determination the intermediate school district may submit an appeal of the determination to the department of treasury. Within 90 days after receipt of the appeal, the department of treasury shall consider the appeal and make a determination of whether the initial determination was correct or incorrect and of whether the situation has been corrected. If the department of treasury finds that the initial determination was correct and that the situation has not been corrected, then the department of treasury shall file a copy of the report with the attorney general. The attorney general shall review the report and, if the attorney general considers it appropriate, shall commence or direct the prosecuting attorney for the county in which the violations occurred to commence appropriate proceedings against the intermediate school board or the official or employee. These proceedings shall include at least a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for the recovery of any public money

determined by the audit to have been illegally expended and for the recovery of any public property determined by the audit to have been converted or misappropriated.

(3) In addition to the intermediate school districts selected for a random audit under subsection (2), the department of treasury may also direct an audit under this section of 1 or more additional intermediate school districts selected by the department of treasury if the department of treasury considers that additional audit or audits to be appropriate. Subsection (2)(d), (e), (f), and (g) applies to an audit under this subsection.

(4) The department and the department of treasury, in consultation with intermediate school districts, shall develop and make available to intermediate school districts the auditing criteria to be used for the purposes of this section.

(5) An audit under this section shall be performed in accordance with standards issued by the American institute of certified public accountants and with government audit standards issued by the United States general accounting office.

(6) The department of treasury shall pay the costs of the audit conducted under this section. The department of treasury's obligation under this section is limited to the amount of a separate line item appropriation identified for the purpose of funding the department of treasury's duties under this section and included in the annual appropriations act making appropriations for the department of treasury.

(7) The department shall post on its website the audit reports it receives under subsection (2)(f).

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect July 1, 2006.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved

Governor