

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 2102
The Texas Internal Auditing Act

(As Amended by the 78th Legislature)

§ 2102.001. Short Title

This chapter may be cited as the Texas Internal Auditing Act.

§ 2102.002. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines for a program of internal auditing to assist agency administrators and governing boards by furnishing independent analyses, appraisals, and recommendations about the adequacy and effectiveness of a state agency's systems of internal control policies and procedures and the quality of performance in carrying out assigned responsibilities. Internal auditing is defined as an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

§ 2102.003. Definitions

In this chapter:

- (1) "Administrator" means the executive head of a state agency.
- (2) "Assurance services" means an examination of evidence for the purpose of providing an independent assessment of risk management, control, or governance processes for an organization. Assurance services include audits as defined in this section.
- (3) "Audit" means:
 - (A) a financial audit described by Section 321.0131;
 - (B) a compliance audit described by Section 321.0132;
 - (C) an economy and efficiency audit described by Section 321.0133;
 - (D) an effectiveness audit described by Section 321.0134; or
 - (E) an investigation described by Section 321.0136.
- (4) "Consulting services" means advisory and related client service activities, the nature and scope of which are agreed upon with the client and are intended to add value and improve an organization's operations. Consulting services include counsel, advice, facilitation, and training.
- (5) "State agency" means a department, board, bureau, institution, commission, or other agency in the executive branch of state government.

§ 2102.004. Applicability

- (a) Sections 2102.005-2102.012 apply only to a state agency that:
 - (1) has an annual operating budget that exceeds \$10 million;
 - (2) has more than 100 full-time equivalent employees as authorized by the General Appropriations Act; or
 - (3) receives and processes more than \$10 million in cash in a fiscal year.
- (b) Sections 2102.013 and 2102.014 apply to each state agency that receives an appropriation and that is not described by Subsection (a).

§ 2102.005. Internal Auditing Required

A state agency shall conduct a program of internal auditing that includes:

- (1) an annual audit plan that is prepared using risk assessment techniques and that identifies the individual audits to be conducted during the year; and
- (2) periodic audits of the agency's major systems and controls, including:
 - (A) accounting systems and controls;
 - (B) administrative systems and controls; and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Internal Audit Division
 - (C) electronic data processing systems and controls.

§ 2102.006. Internal Auditor; Staff

- (a) The governing board of a state agency or the administrator of a state agency that does not have a governing board shall appoint an internal auditor.
- (b) An internal auditor must:
 - (1) be a certified public accountant or a certified internal auditor; and
 - (2) have at least three years of auditing experience.
- (c) The state agency shall employ additional professional and support staff the administrator determines necessary to implement an effective program of internal auditing.
- (d) The governing board of a state agency, or the administrator of a state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board, shall periodically review the resources dedicated to the internal audit program and determine if adequate resources exist to ensure that risks identified in the annual risk assessment are adequately covered within a reasonable time frame.

§ 2102.007. Duties of Internal Auditor

- (a) The internal auditor shall:
 - (1) report directly to the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board;
 - (2) develop an annual audit plan;
 - (3) conduct audits as specified in the audit plan and document deviations;
 - (4) prepare audit reports;
 - (5) conduct quality assurance reviews in accordance with professional standards as provided by Section 2102.011 and periodically take part in a comprehensive external peer review; and
 - (6) conduct economy and efficiency audits and program results audits as directed by the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board.
- (b) The program of internal auditing conducted by a state agency must provide for the auditor to:
 - (1) have access to the administrator; and
 - (2) be free of all operational and management responsibilities that would impair the auditor's ability to review independently all aspects of the state agency's operation.

§ 2102.008. Approval of Audit Plan and Audit Report

The annual audit plan developed by the internal auditor must be approved by the state agency's governing board or by the administrator of a state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board. Audit reports must be reviewed by the state agency's governing board and the administrator.

§ 2102.009. Annual Report

The internal auditor shall prepare an annual report and submit the report before November 1 of each year to the governor, the Legislative Budget Board, the Sunset Advisory Commission, the state auditor, the state agency's governing board, and the administrator. The state auditor shall prescribe the form and content of the report, subject to the approval of the legislative audit committee.

§ 2102.0091. Reports of Periodic Audits

- (a) A state agency shall file with the Sunset Advisory Commission, the budget division of the governor's office, the state auditor, and the Legislative Budget Board a copy of each report Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Internal Audit Division submitted to the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board by the agency's internal auditor.
- (b) Each report shall be filed not later than the 30th day after the date the report is submitted to the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board.
- (c) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (a), a state agency shall file with the budget division of the governor's office, the state auditor, and the Legislative Budget Board any action plan or other response issued by the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board in response to the report of the state agency's internal auditor.

§ 2102.010. Consultations

An internal auditor may consult the state agency's governing board or the administrator of the state agency if the state agency does not have a governing board, the governor's office, the state auditor, and legislative agencies or committees about matters affecting duties or responsibilities under this chapter.

§ 2102.0011. Internal Audit Standards

The internal audit program shall conform to the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics contained in the Professional Practices Framework as promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors, and generally accepted government auditing standards.

§ 2102.012. Professional Development

- (a) Subject to approval by the legislative audit committee, the state auditor may make available and coordinate a program of training and technical assistance to ensure that state agency internal auditors have access to current information about internal audit techniques, policies, and procedures and to provide general technical and audit assistance to agency internal auditors on request.
- (b) The state auditor is entitled to reimbursement for costs associated with providing the services under the terms of interagency cooperation contracts negotiated between the state auditor and each agency. The costs may not exceed those allowed by the General Appropriations Act. Work performed under this section by the state auditor is subject to approval by the legislative audit committee for inclusion in the audit plan under Section 321.013(c).