HOUSE BILL No. 2440

By Legislative Post Audit Committee

12-21

AN ACT concerning the legislative division of post audit; relating to K-12 education performance audits; special education; amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 72-5173 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 72-5173 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-5173. The legislative post audit committee shall direct the legislative division of post audit to conduct the following performance audits in the fiscal year specified:

(a) A performance audit of transportation services funding. The audit should include a comparison of the amount of transportation services funding school districts receive to the cost of providing transportation services. This performance audit shall be conducted during fiscal year 2018, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2018.

(b) A performance audit of at-risk education funding. The audit should evaluate the method of counting students for at-risk education funding, the level of the at-risk student weighting and high-density at-risk student weighting under the act and how school districts are expending moneys provided for at-risk education. This performance audit shall be conducted during fiscal year 2020, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2020.

(c) A performance audit of bilingual education funding. The audit should evaluate the method of counting students for bilingual education funding, the level of the bilingual weighting under the act and how school districts are expending moneys provided for bilingual education. This performance audit shall be conducted during fiscal year 2023, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2023.

(d) A study of statewide virtual school programs administered in other states. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The aggregate cost incurred by each state administering a virtual school program, and the cost incurred by individual school districts or schools within each state;

(2) the resources necessary for the implementation of each virtual school program, including, but not limited to, personnel, equipment,
software and facility usage;

(3) the scope of each virtual school program; and

(4) the effectiveness of each virtual school program with respect to student performance and outcomes.

The audit shall be conducted during fiscal year 2024, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2024.

(e) (1) A performance audit to provide a reasonable estimate of the cost of providing educational opportunities for every public school student in Kansas to achieve the performance outcome standards adopted by the state board of education. This performance audit shall be conducted three times as follows:

(A) During fiscal year 2019, and the final report submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2019;

(B) during fiscal year 2022, and the final report submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2022; and

(C) during fiscal year 2025, and the final report submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2025.

(2) Each performance audit required under this subsection shall:

(A) Include reasonable estimates of the costs of providing specialized education services as required by law, including, but not limited to, special education and related services, bilingual education and at-risk programs; and

(B) account for other factors which may contribute to variations in costs incurred by school districts, including, but not limited to, total district enrollment and geographic location within the state.

(3) In conducting each performance audit required under this subsection:

(A) Any examination of historical data and expenditures shall correct any recognized inadequacy of such data or expenditure through a statistically valid method of extrapolation; and

(B) subject to the limitations of the division of legislative post audit budget and appropriations therefor, the legislative post auditor may enter into contracts with consultants as the post auditor deems necessary.

(f) A performance audit to identify best practices in successful schools. The audit should include a comparison of the educational methods and other practices of demographically similar school districts that achieve significantly different student outcomes based on performance outcome standards adopted by the state board of education. This performance audit shall be conducted during fiscal year 2021, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2021. The audit shall be conducted a second time during fiscal year 2026, and the final audit report shall be submitted to the legislature on or before January 15, 2026.
Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 72-5173 is hereby repealed.
Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.