
DIGEST

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Garofalo

HB No. 209

Abstract: Provides for legislative fiscal staff to have access to certain information from state agencies.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the legislative auditor, including the authority to compile financial statements and to examine, audit, or review the books and accounts of state agencies. The scope of the examinations may include financial accountability, legal compliance, and evaluations of the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the auditee's programs. Further, the legislative auditor has access to papers, books, accounts, records, files, instruments, documents, films, tapes, and any other forms of recordation, including but not limited to computers and recording devices, and all software and hardware which hold data, is part of the technical processes leading up to the retention of data, or is part of the security system. The authority is extended to confidential materials; however, the legislative auditor must comply with the restriction imposed by law on information deemed confidential. (R.S. 24:513)

Present law provides for the powers of the legislative fiscal officer and staff to inspect and make copies of any books, records, or files of state agencies as well as authority to inspect all records which are classified as confidential by any of the laws of the state. Present law further provides that the confidentiality of such records is maintained except for the purpose of developing general statistics and program evaluations of the operations of the state agencies. (R.S. 24:604)

Proposed law provides for the powers of the legislative fiscal staff similar to those of the legislative auditor and the legislative fiscal officer, including the authority to inspect and make copies of any books, records, or files of state agencies, as well as authority to inspect all records which are classified as confidential by any of the laws of the state. Proposed law further provides that the confidentiality of such records is maintained except for the purpose of developing general statistics and program evaluations of the operations of the state agencies.

(Adds R.S. 24:508)