



Office of the State Auditor

Kerri L. Hunter, CPA, CFE
State Auditor

Legislative Audit Committee

October 20, 2025

Minutes

The Legislative Audit Committee (LAC) convened on October 20, 2025, at 9:01 a.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. Representative William Lindstedt called the meeting to order. Roll was called with the following members present or excused:

Committee Members

Representative Max Brooks, Representative Lindsay Gilchrist (temporary replacement for Representative Jenny Willford), Representative Dusty Johnson, Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet, (remote), Senator Rod Pelton, Senator Mike Weissman, Senator Lisa Frizell, Representative William Lindstedt

The following Office of the State Auditor (OSA) staff attended:

OSA

Kerri L. Hunter, State Auditor; Michelle Colin, Deputy State Auditor; Marisa Edwards, Deputy State Auditor; Crystal Dorsey, Nina Frant, Catherine Friday, Bianca Garcia, Chris McClain, Lynn Obremski, Jenny Page, Zachary Robertson, Isaiah Rodriguez, Maya Rosochacova, Laura Russell, Kate Shiroff, Stefanie Winzeler

Other Attendees

Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Jennifer Walmer, Chair

Colorado Department of Education

Jennifer Okes, Chief School Operations Officer

Corey Evans, School Finance Executive Director

Colorado Lottery

Tom Seaver, Director (remote)

Erin Garcia, Controller (remote)

Cristi Gannon, Accountant

Connect for Health Colorado

Mr. Kevin Patterson, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Brian Braun, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Nina Schwartz, Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer

Department of Agriculture

Hollis Glenn, Deputy Commissioner of Operations

Mark Gallegos, Division Director, Inspection and Consumer Services

Department of Higher Education

Dr. Angie Paccione, Executive Director

Carl Einhaus, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer

Brad Griffith, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation

Elizabeth School District

Dan Snowberger, Superintendent

Ellicott 22 School District

Chris Smith, Superintendent

Forvis Mazars, LLP

Christopher Telli, Partner

Anna Thigpen, Director

Office of the State Controller

Robert Jaros, State Controller

Jeffrey Kahn, Director of Financial Reporting & Analysis

9:02 a.m.

Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Department of Higher Education, Higher Education Transfer Credits, Performance Audit, September 2025

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Department of Higher Education, Higher Education Transfer Credits, Performance Audit, September 2025. Senator Weissman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Colin introduced self and staff.

Ms. Walmer (Colorado Commission on Higher Education) introduced self.

Mr. Einhaus and Mr. Griffith (Department of Higher Education) introduced themselves.
Dr. Paccione (Department of Higher Education) introduced self.
OSA staff presented an overview of the audit and recommendations.

Recommendation 1 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Department of Higher Education (Department).

Recommendation 2 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Colorado Commission of Higher Education (Commission).

Discussion ensued regarding membership composition and tasks of the transfer sub-committee, curriculum alignment policy, costs associated with transferring transcripts between institutions, and timeline for transcript submissions.

Recommendation 3 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Commission.

Recommendation 4 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Department.

Recommendation 5 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Commission.

Recommendations 6 and 7 were reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Department.

Discussion ensued regarding acceptance of Joint Services Transcripts (JST), communication between college boards regarding JSTs, tightening of policies through administrative or legislative action, communication between higher education institutions and the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, policy regarding students returning to active duty, and recovery of data lost during data incident.

10:01 a.m.

Connect for Health Colorado, Performance Audit, September 2025

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Connect for Health Colorado, Performance Audit, September 2025. Senator Weissman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Colin introduced staff.

Mr. Patterson (Connect for Health Colorado) introduced self and staff, and presented opening comments.

OSA staff presented an overview of the audit and recommendations.

Recommendation 1 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by Connect for Health Colorado (Connect for Health).

Discussion ensued regarding documentation of sponsorship requests from political entities, the positive outcome of the audit's findings, and schedule for implementation of recommendations.

Recommendation 2 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by Connect for Health.

Discussion ensued regarding documentation of credit card usage.

Recommendation 3 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by Connect for Health.

Discussion ensued regarding the length of the Chief Financial Officer's employment service.

10:42 a.m.

Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Districts Fiscal Health Analysis, Fiscal Years 2022-2024, Informational Report, September 2025

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Districts Fiscal Health Analysis, Fiscal Years 2022-2024, Informational Report, September 2025. Senator Pelton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Edwards introduced self and staff.

Ms. Okes (Colorado Department of Education) introduced self and staff.

Mr. Snowberger (Elizabeth School District) introduced self.

Mr. Smith (Ellicott 22 School District) introduced self.

OSA staff presented an overview of the analysis.

Elizabeth School District discussed their response.

Discussion ensued regarding the flat mill levy, cost per special needs student, potential effect of eliminating averaging, and special needs students moving out of metro districts into the Elizabeth School District.

Ellicott 22 School District discussed their response.

Discussion ensued regarding decreases in student enrollment and staff recruitment.

11:34 a.m.

Colorado Lottery, Financial and Compliance Audit, June 30, 2025 and 2024

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Colorado Lottery, Financial and Compliance Audit, June 30, 2025 and 2024. Representative Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Edwards introduced staff and contractor.

Ms. Garcia (Colorado Lottery) introduced self and staff.

Forvis Mazars, LLP staff presented an overview of the audit.

11:49 a.m.

Schedule of TABOR Revenue, Fiscal Year 2025, Performance Audit, September 2025

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Schedule of TABOR Revenue, Fiscal Year 2025, Performance Audit, September 2025. Senator Weissman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Edwards introduced self and staff.

Mr. Jaros (Office of the State Controller) introduced self and staff.

OSA staff presented an overview of the audit.

12:05 p.m.

Minutes

Senator Frizell made a motion to approve the August 11, 2025, LAC hearing minutes. Senator Pelton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

12:06 p.m.

Department of Agriculture, Measurement Standards Program, Performance Audit, September 2024, Status Report

Ms. Colin introduced self and staff.

Ms. Russell presented an overview of the audit, noting that eight recommendations were fully implemented and three were partially implemented.

Mr. Glenn introduced self and staff, and stated he was available to answer any questions.

12:08 p.m.

Department of Regulatory Agencies, Colorado Civil Rights Commission and Civil Rights Division, Performance Audit, September 2024, Status Report

Ms. Colin introduced staff.

Ms. Shiroff presented an overview of the audit, and presented the status report.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for addressing the outstanding recommendation.

12:11 p.m.

School Capital Construction Potential Legislation

Ms. Colin introduced staff.

Ms. Dorsey presented an overview of the potential legislation.

Senator Frizell made a motion to move the bill draft to bill paper, with permission to make technical changes. Senator Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed 8-0. The results were as follows:

Representative Brooks – Yes
Representative Gilchrist - Yes
Representative Johnson – Yes
Senator Pelton – Yes
Senator Roberts – Yes
Senator Weissman – Yes
Senator Frizell – Yes
Representative Lindstedt - Yes

The legislation will start in the House. House prime sponsors were Representative Johnson and Representative Lindstedt. Senate prime sponsors were Senator Frizell and Senator Weissman. Senate co-sponsor was Senator Michaelson Jenet.

12:15 p.m.

Fraud Hotline Potential Legislation

Ms. Colin presented an overview of the potential legislation.
Senator Weismann presented additional comments regarding the legislation.

Senator Weissman made a motion to move the bill draft to bill paper, with permission to make technical changes. Representative Gilchrist seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed 8-0. The results were as follows:

Representative Brooks – Yes
Representative Gilchrist - Yes
Representative Johnson – Yes
Senator Pelton – Yes
Senator Roberts – Yes
Senator Weissman – Yes
Senator Frizell – Yes
Representative Lindstedt – Yes

The legislation will start in the Senate. Senate prime sponsors were Senator Weissman and Senator Frizell. House prime sponsors were Representative Brooks and Representative Lindstedt. Senate co-sponsor was Senator Michaelson Jenet.

12:19 p.m.

Colorado Office of the State Auditor, Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

Ms. Page presented an overview of the report.

Auditor Hunter recognized staff.

Senator Pelton recognized the OSA for its award for the 2022 performance audit of Veterans Services.

12:28 p.m.

Proposed 2026 Session Calendar

Auditor Hunter presented an overview of the Proposed 2026 Session Calendar, and requested that members submit any changes prior to the December 8, 2025, LAC hearing.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential of Tuesday hearings.

12:21 p.m.

Reports Released Without a Hearing

Senator Frizell made a motion to release the Reports Released Without a Hearing. Senator Pelton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Edwards presented an overview of the reports.

Discussion ensued regarding the legislative history for reviewing special districts created on or after 1991.

Hearing adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Jayne Watson

Executive Assistant, Office of the State Auditor