



Office of the State Auditor

Kerri L. Hunter, CPA, CFE
State Auditor

Legislative Audit Committee February 25, 2026, Minutes

The Legislative Audit Committee (LAC) convened on February 25, 2026, at 7:18 a.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. Senator Lisa Frizell called the meeting to order. Roll was called with the following members present or excused:

Committee Members

Representative Jennifer Bacon (arrived 7:19 a.m.), Representative Max Brooks (arrived 7:25 a.m.), Representative Dusty Johnson, Senator William Lindstedt, Senator Rod Pelton, Senator Mike Weissman, Representative Jenny Willford, Senator Lisa Frizell

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; Rhianna Hruska, Hudson Marsh, Trey Standley, Heidi Wagner

Other Attendees

Department of Public Safety

Stan Hilkey, Executive Director

Armando Saldate III, Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Lance Allen, Deputy Executive Director, Forensic Services

Office of the State Public Defender

Megan Ring, State Public Defender

Lucienne Ohanian, Chief Deputy Public Defender

7:19 a.m.

Election of Vice Chair

Senator Lindstedt made a motion to nominate Senator Weissman as Vice Chair. Representative Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7:20 a.m.

Department of Public Safety, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Forensic Services Section, DNA Evidence Testing, Performance Audit, February 2026

Senator Weissman made a motion to release the Department of Public Safety; Colorado Bureau of Investigation; Forensic Services Section, DNA Evidence Testing; Performance Audit; February 2026. Representative Willford seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Colin introduced self and staff.

Mr. Hilkey (Department of Public Safety) introduced self and staff.

OSA staff presented an overview of the audit.

Discussion ensued regarding cost per case, appropriations to address backlog, costs related to outsourcing, funding sources, case processing times, accreditation for laboratory management systems, IT needs, and personnel requirements.

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 were reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Discussion ensued regarding reducing turnaround times from 90 to 60 days, funding requirements for replacing staff, and implementation dates.

Recommendation 4 was reviewed, discussed, and agreed to by CBI.

Discussion ensued regarding outsourcing and fiscal notes.

8:37 a.m.

Minutes

Senator Weissman made a motion to approve the February 11, 2026, LAC hearing minutes. Senator Lindstedt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Judicial Branch, Office of the State Public Defender, Performance Audit, July 2024, Status Report

Ms. Colin introduced staff.

Mr. Standley presented an overview of the audit, noting that seven recommendations were fully implemented, three were partially implemented, and one was not yet implemented.

Ms. Ring (Office of the State Public Defender) introduced self and staff, and presented the status report.

8:43 a.m.

Audit Request of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act Program

Auditor Hunter presented an overview of the audit request for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act Program.

Senator Pelton made a motion to approve preliminary research time for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act Program audit request. Representative Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8:44 a.m.

Audit Request of Colorado's Behavioral Health Care System

Auditor Hunter presented an overview of the audit request for the State's behavioral health care system.

Senator Weissman made a motion to approve preliminary research time for the behavioral health care system audit request. Representative Willford seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope and timeline for the audit.

8:47 a.m.

OSA Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget

Auditor Hunter presented an overview of the budget.

Senator Weissman made a motion to approve the OSA Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget with authorization to make any changes as prescribed by the Executive Committee or the Joint Budget Committee. Representative Willford seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8:54 a.m.

State Auditor Re-Appointment

Auditor Hunter presented comments regarding her tenure as State Auditor. She requested the Committee approve her re-appointment as State Auditor for another five years.

Senator Weissman made a motion to approve Auditor Hunter's re-appointment for a second five-year term, submission of Auditor Hunter to the Executive Committee for consultation, and for contingent approval to draft a joint resolution. Senator Pelton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8:56 a.m.

Report Released Without a Hearing

Senator Weissman made a motion to release the Reports Released Without a Hearing. Representative Bacon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Edwards presented an overview of the report.

Hearing adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Jayne Watson

Executive Assistant, Office of the State Auditor