

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
December 2, 2021**

Members in attendance:

**Representative Ardian Zika, Chair
Senator Dennis Baxley, Vice Chair
Representative Webster Barnaby
Senator Jim Boyd
Representative Tracie Davis
Representative Anna Eskamani
Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka
Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr.
Representative Keith L. Truenow**

Senators Jennifer Bradley and Janet Cruz and were excused

Consideration of a request for an Auditor General operational audit of the Town of Greenville submitted by Representative Shoaf

This item was not considered at the request of Representative Shoaf.

The Committee is expected to consider taking action against local governmental entities that have failed to file an annual financial report and/or annual financial audit report (if required) in accordance with ss. 218.32(1) and 218.39, F.S.

Debbie White, CPA, Chief Legislative Analyst with the Committee, discussed the local governmental entities that had not submitted their required financial reports. Below are the lists of the local governmental entities that, as of the time of the meeting, had failed to file an annual financial report and/or an annual financial audit report for one or more years and the staff's recommendations.

Unless otherwise stated, the delinquent reports are for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

List 1: Municipalities

Name	County	Staff Recommendation
Town of Altha	Calhoun	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
City of Apalachicola	Franklin	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
City of Avon Park	Highlands	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
City of Center Hill	Sumter	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
Town of Century	Escambia	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
City of Clermont	Lake	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Town of Eatonville	Orange	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021

Name	County	Staff Recommendation
Village of El Portal	Miami-Dade	Continue action on delinquent FY 2018-19 reports ----- Take action if delinquent FY 2019-20 reports not received by 12/6/2021
Town of Esto	Holmes	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 3/31/2022
Town of Greenwood	Jackson	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
City of Gretna	Gadsden	Continue action on delinquent FY 2018-19 reports ----- Take action if delinquent FY 2019-20 reports not received by 3/31/2022 ----- In addition, authorize Committee staff to immediately contact: (1) the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the two specific reimbursement grants for which the City has outstanding contractor invoices for completed work, totaling \$149,430 and \$75,254.48, respectively, based on the financial documentation provided by the City; and (2) the Department of Financial Services to release the requested funds related to such reimbursement grants upon confirmation from the DEO and the DOT of the amounts.
City of Hampton	Bradford	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Town of Havana	Gadsden	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
Consolidated City of Jacksonville	Duval	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Town of Jennings	Hamilton	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
Town of Loxahatchee Groves	Palm Beach	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Town of Mangonia Park	Palm Beach	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 3/31/2022
City of Mexico Beach	Bay	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
City of Opa-locka	Miami-Dade	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 3/31/2022
City of Pahokee	Palm Beach	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
City of Parker	Bay	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
City of Vernon	Washington	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Town of White Springs	Hamilton	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
Total Number of Municipalities: 23		

List 2: Special Districts (Independent)

Name	County / Creation Method	Staff Recommendation
Ballentrae Hillsborough Community Development District	Hillsborough / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Bermont Drainage District	Charlotte / General Law	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 12/6/2021
Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District	Volusia / Special Act	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/6/2021
Eastpoint Water and Sewer District	Franklin / Special Act	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 1/31/2022
Grove Resort Community Development District	Orange / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
Hidden Creek Community Development District	Hillsborough / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District	Hillsborough / General Law)	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021

Name	County / Creation Method	Staff Recommendation
Holmes Creek Soil and Water Conservation District	Holmes / General Law	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/6/2021
Jacksonville Transportation Authority	Duval / Special Act	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Authority's AFR. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021.]
Lake Lucie Community Development District	St. Lucie / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Orange Hill Soil and Water Conservation District	Washington / General Law	No state action regarding FY 2019-20 delinquent report(s); however, encourage the District to attempt to reconstruct the financial records for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 and submit the respective AFRs at some future date.
Portofino Vineyards Community Development District	Lee / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
Preserve at South Branch Community Development District, The	Pasco / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District	Miami-Dade / General Law	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 2/28/2022
Verona Community Development District	Lee / Local Ordinance	Due to a lack of a registered agent and office, take action upon the filing of a registered agent or office if filed by 2/3/2022. Otherwise, declare District inactive.
Yellow River Soil and Water Conservation District	Okaloosa / General Law	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 3/31/2022
Total Number of Special Districts: 16		

List 3: Special Districts (Dependent)

Name	County / Creation Method	Staff Recommendation
Ali-Baba Neighborhood Improvement District	Miami-Dade / Local Ordinance	No action since the City of Opa-locka is planning to dissolve the special district.
Apalachicola Community Redevelopment Agency	Franklin / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Avon Park Community Redevelopment Agency	Highlands / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Century Community Redevelopment Agency	Escambia / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 12/31/2021
City of Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency	Manatee / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021
Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Parker	Bay / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 1/31/2022
Community Redevelopment Agency of the Town of Havana	Gadsden / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 1/31/2022
Downtown Clermont Redevelopment Agency	Lake / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Downtown Investment Authority	Duval / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Authority's AFR and audit report. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021.]
East-West Neighborhood Improvement District	Miami-Dade / Local Ordinance	No action since the City of Opa-locka is planning to dissolve the special district.
Gretna Neighborhood Improvement District	Gadsden / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the City of Gretna is responsible for submitting the District's AFR. [Note: Take action on City of Gretna if delinquent report(s) not received by 3/31/2022.]

Name	County / Creation Method	Staff Recommendation
Jacksonville Health Facilities Authority	Duval / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Authority's AFR and the Authority's financial activity is included as part of the City's audit. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021.]
Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority	Duval / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Authority's AFR and the Authority's financial activity is included as part of the City's audit. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021.]
Jacksonville International Airport Area Redevelopment Agency	Duval / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Jacksonville Port Authority	Duval / Special Act	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Authority's AFR. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021.]
Jacksonville Public Library	Duval / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the Consolidated City of Jacksonville is responsible for submitting the Library's audit report. [Note: Take action on Consolidated City of Jacksonville if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021.]
KingSoutel Crossing Community Redevelopment Agency	Duval / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Lee County Educational Facilities Authority	Lee / General Law	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 12/6/2021
Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District	Palm Beach / Special Act	No action on the special district. The District is a component unit of the City of Loxahatchee Groves and is included in the City's audit. The City is responsible for submitting the Agency's AFR. [Note: Take action on City of Loxahatchee Groves if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021.]
Niles Garden Neighborhood Improvement District	Miami-Dade / Local Ordinance	No action since the City of Opa-locka is planning to dissolve the special district.
Opa-Locka Community Redevelopment Agency	Miami-Dade / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 3/31/2022
Renew Arlington Community Redevelopment Agency	Duval / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent reports not received by 12/31/2021
Tarawood Special Dependent Tax District	Hillsborough / Local Ordinance	Take action if delinquent report(s) not received by 12/6/2021
Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency	Orange / Local Ordinance	No action on the special district since the Town of Eatonville is responsible for submitting the Agency's AFR. [Note: Take action on Town of Eatonville if delinquent report not received by 12/31/2021.]
Total Number of Special Districts: 24		

List 4: Continue to Delay Action

Name	County / Creation Method	Staff Recommendation
Campbellton-Graceville Hospital District	Jackson / Special Act	Continue to delay state action on FY 2016-17 through FY 2018-19 delinquent financial reports and delay state action on FY 2019-20 delinquent financial reports, and have staff monitor District's progress in complying with terms of Chapter 2018-188, Laws of Florida, to "wind down its affairs" now that the Hospital property has been sold.
Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority	Santa Rosa / Special Act	Continue to delay action
Total Number of Special Districts: 2		

Vice Chair Baxley moved that the Committee accept staff recommendations for the municipalities and special districts on Lists 1 through 4, and direct staff to contact the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services or the Department of Economic Opportunity, as appropriate, and direct them to proceed according to the provisions of Section 11.40(2), F.S.¹

Staff shall notify all parties required to be notified by law regarding these entities.

He further moved that the Chair, with the consent of the Vice Chair, be permitted to delay action against the entities on Lists 1 through 3 if additional information is brought to their attention that should be considered in determining the effective date of the Committee's action. Staff shall deliver a copy of any such decision to the members of the Committee, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House.

Staff shall continue to monitor the special districts on List 4.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee is expected to consider taking action against educational and local governmental entities that have failed to take full corrective action in response to repeat audit findings, pursuant to ss. 11.45(7)(j) and 218.39(8), F.S.

Chair Zika called on Debbie White, CPA, Chief Legislative Analyst with the Committee, to explain the lists of educational entities and local governmental entities with audit findings that have been reported in at least three successive audit reports.

Chair Zika entertained a motion to accept the staff's recommendations and also direct staff to send a letter to any entity for which the Auditor General reports uncorrected audit findings to the Committee for late-filed 2019-20 audit reports unless a response has been previously provided and it appears that the entity has taken corrective action, to the extent possible, using existing resources.

Senator Baxley moved the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

¹ Section 11.40(2), F.S., authorizes the Committee to: (1) For counties and municipalities, direct the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services to withhold certain revenue, with withholding to begin 30 days after the agencies have received notification; and (2) For special districts, direct the Department of Economic Opportunity to file a petition for enforcement in the circuit court in Leon County or begin the process to declare the special district inactive for dissolution.

Lobbying firm compensation report audits:

Results of audits of lobbying firm compensation reports

Consideration of revisions to the *Guidelines for Attestation Services Relating to Quarterly Lobbying Firm Compensation Reports*

Chair Zika called on Kathy DuBose, Committee Coordinator, to provide the results of the audits of the lobbying firm quarterly compensation reports performed in 2021 and explain the revisions to the Guidelines.

Chair Zika entertained a motion to approve the draft Guidelines and allow staff to make technical and clarifying changes.

Senator Baxley moved the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Consideration of the Committee's report required by the Transparency Florida Act, s. 215.985, F.S.

At the October 14, 2021 meeting, staff of the Governor's Office and Department of Financial Services demonstrated the transparency websites and staff provided a summary of the draft report. Chair Zika provided an opportunity, after the meeting, for members to submit recommendations to be considered for the Committee's Transparency Florida report.

Representative Persons-Mulicka submitted a recommendation, and presented it at the meeting, to include additional information on the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking Systems (FACTS) or other appropriate State Transparency website. Chair Zika entertained a motion to include Representative Persons-Mulicka's recommendation. Senator Baxley moved the motion, and the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Chair Zika also entertained a motion to approve the draft report and allow staff to make technical and clarifying changes. Senator Baxley moved the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Presentation of the Auditor General's operational audit of the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA) and response from NICA

Joshua Barrett, Audit Manager with the Auditor General's Office, presented the Auditor's General's report number 2022-009 on the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association Operational Audit.

Jim DeBeaugrine (NICA Board Chair) and Melissa Jaacks (Interim Executive Director) also spoke in regards to the Auditor Report.

Presentation of the Auditor General’s operational audit of the Belle Glade Housing Authority and response from the Authority

Greg Centers, Deputy Auditor General with the Auditor General’s Office, presented the Auditor’s General’s report number 2022-032 on the Belle Glade Housing Authority Operational Audit.

Belle Glade Housing Authority representatives present were Steve Weeks (Board Chair), Ramona Hyson (President/CEO of Nelson & Associates), and Greg Hyson (Vice President of Nelson & Associates). Mr. Weeks and Ms. Hyson responded to questions from the Committee Members.

Ed Chase, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, with Palm Beach County spoke briefly before the Committee regarding the Audit Report.

With no further business before the Committee, Senator Torres moved to adjourn.