

2023-2024 Bill H. 4300 98.9. (TREAS: Penalties for Non-Reporting) If a municipality fails to submit the audited financial statements required under Section 14-1-208 of the 1976 Code to the State Treasurer within thirteen months of the end of their fiscal year, the State Treasurer must withhold all state payments to that municipality until the required audited financial statement is received.

If the State Treasurer receives an audit report from either a county or municipality that contains a significant finding related to court fine reports or remittances to the Office of State Treasurer, the requirements of Proviso 117.48 shall be followed if an amount due is specified, otherwise the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of all state payments to the county or municipality until the estimated deficiency has been satisfied.

If a county or municipality is more than ninety days delinquent in remitting a monthly court fines report, the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of state funding for that county or municipality until all monthly reports are current.

After ninety days, any funds held by the Office of State Treasurer will be made available to the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the entity for the purpose of determining an amount due to the Office of State Treasurer, if any.

The penalty provisions in this proviso are suspended during Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for municipalities. The State Treasurer is authorized and directed to release all funds withheld from municipalities in the prior two fiscal years due to a municipality not submitting the required audited financial statements or submitting financial information to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office as required by Section 6-1-50 of the 1976 Code.

Section [4-9-150](#). The council shall provide for an independent annual audit of all financial records and transactions of the county and any agency funded in whole by county funds and may provide for more frequent audits as it considers necessary. Special audits may be provided for any agency receiving county funds as the county governing body considers necessary. The audits must be made by a certified public accountant or public accountant or firm of these accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the county government or any of its officers. The council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate the accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding three years. The designation for any particular fiscal year must be made no later than thirty days after the beginning of the fiscal year. The report of the audit must be made available for public inspection. A copy of the report of the audit must be submitted to the State Treasurer no later than January first each year following the close of the books of the previous fiscal year. Upon a showing of proper cause, as determined by the State Treasurer, the State Treasurer shall grant a county an extension of ninety days. To be considered, a request for extension must be signed by the chair of the council before the deadline for filing.

If the report is not filed with the State Treasurer by January first, or within the time extended for filing the report, funds distributed by the State Treasurer to the county in the current fiscal year must be withheld pending receipt of a copy of the report.