

(3) THE EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO AND MAY INSPECT THE RECORDS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE CONFIDENTIAL BY LAW, OF ANY LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO PERFORM THE AUDITS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION OR PURSUANT TO A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AS PROVIDED IN § 5-114(E)(4) OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(4) THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE AUDIT PROCESS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BEFORE THE AUDIT IS CONDUCTED.

(5) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 2-1224 OF THIS SUBTITLE, EACH AUDIT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct a centralized audit of the master plans to determine overall compliance with § 5-401 of the Education Article, and the results shall be submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. The Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct the centralized audit by December 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the first group of audits required under § 2-1220(f)(1) of the State Government Article shall include audits of any local school system with a negative fund balance in the general fund of 1% or more of general fund revenue in either of the prior 2 fiscal years. Thereafter, the Office of Legislative Audits shall give priority in the order of audits to local school systems that have failed to comply with any of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 5-114(e) of the Education Article, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners shall eliminate the general fund deficit as reported in the annual audit required by § 5-109 of the Education Article by no later than the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That 45 days prior to the initiation of the first financial management practices audit required by this Act, the Office of Legislative Audits shall submit the scope, measurements, and process the Office plans to use in conducting the required audits to the Joint Audit Committee for approval.

SECTION ~~2.~~ 4. 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved April 27, 2004.