Oversight in the News

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- Louisiana prisons need better oversight of sentencing changes, auditor says (Louisiana Illuminator, 9/11/2023)
  - The state legislative auditor released a report stating that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections should be more meticulous when making changes to sentences for good behavior and other credits. The auditor found that the department did not properly scrutinize sentence adjustments based on accomplishments and compliance with prison rules. This lack of review process increases the risk of errors in offender records not being identified and corrected in a timely manner, sometimes holding prisoners longer than it should.
- Federal broadband expansion projects see mixed progress in Louisiana (Louisiana Illuminator, 6/18/2024)
  - Louisiana has successfully completed several federal broadband expansion projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant, significantly enhancing internet access in underserved areas. These projects have laid the groundwork for improved connectivity, education, and economic opportunities for residents in rural and urban communities alike. The

state’s progress in broadband expansion is a key step towards bridging the digital divide and ensuring that all citizens have access to high-speed internet services.
    - Read audit highlights

- How productive is D.A.R.E. in helping Louisiana’s children? (KALB, 7/1/2024)
    - The Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) released a performance audit evaluating the effectiveness of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). Funding for the program comes from cigarette taxes, special court fees from drug offenders, and local agency contributions. Between 2019 and 2023, there was a significant increase in junior high schools receiving D.A.R.E. presentations, but a decrease in K-6 students, leading to fewer students being reached. The LLA noted that the biggest issue facing the program is outdated technology and processes. Despite challenges, the program has shown some success in improving decision-making skills among 5th and 6th-grade students, according to the LLA’s findings.
        - Read the audit

- At Louisiana care facilities for disabled, audit finds cases of possible abuse, neglect (NOLA, 7/22/2024)
    - The Louisiana Legislative Auditor released an audit detailing a five-year investigation that identified 3,500 incidents of abuse or neglect in care facilities. Reporting requirements were not followed in many of these instances, and many sheriffs’ offices cannot access the state’s tracking system. The Louisiana Department of Health says they will make changes to improve the monitoring system.
        - Read the audit

- High insurance rates prompt Louisiana lawmakers to consider tort reform — again (Louisiana Illuminator, 8/7/2024)
    - In response to Louisiana's persistently high auto insurance rates, state lawmakers are examining a law that limits transparency in personal injury jury trials. Five legislative committees held oversight hearings to investigate the causes and potential solutions to the insurance crisis, with a special session on insurance issues anticipated for the following year.

Insurance Commissioner Tim Temple highlighted Louisiana's number of bodily injury claims, which is double the national average, and suggested looking to Florida's recent tort reform laws as a model.

- Louisiana prisons need better oversight of sentencing changes, auditor says (Louisiana Illuminator, 9/11/2024)
  - Louisiana’s prison system lacks sufficient oversight in adjusting sentences for inmates, particularly regarding reductions based on good behavior and credits for program participation, according to a recent audit. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor highlighted issues such as inconsistencies in sentence calculations and improper application of sentence reductions. The report calls for stronger oversight mechanisms to ensure accuracy and fairness in these processes.
    - Read the audit

- Audit reveals gaps in oversight of Louisiana’s abuse and neglect database (The Center Square, 1/13/2024)
  - A report issued by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor found significant shortcomings in the Department of Health’s oversight of its adverse actions lists for certified nurse aides and direct service workers, which are intended to prevent individuals with findings of abuse or neglect from working in prohibited health care settings. The audit revealed delays in evidence reviews, inconsistent enforcement, and instances where individuals on the lists continued working in nursing or intermediate care facilities, posing risks to patient safety. The auditor made seven recommendations to improve oversight, including formalizing criteria for determining findings and requiring facilities to crosscheck the lists before hiring.
    - Read the audit

- New Orleans not providing adequate oversight for homeless shelters, audit finds (New Orleans Public Radio, 3/28/2025)
  - A recent audit by the New Orleans Office of Inspector General found that the city failed to provide adequate oversight of homeless shelter operations, including inconsistent monitoring and insufficient documentation of shelter inspections. The audit reported that the Office of Homeless Services and Strategy lacked formal policies and procedures to ensure accountability

and quality of services. Auditors recommended establishing clearer standards and improving data collection to enhance oversight.

- Several local governments not spending money available for opioid abuse treatment programs, audit says (WBRZ, 5/12/2025)
  - A recent audit found that multiple local governments in Louisiana have not used available settlement funds intended for opioid abuse treatment programs. The report indicated that while millions in funding were distributed, some parishes delayed spending due to unclear guidance or lack of planning. Auditors recommended improved oversight and technical assistance to ensure the funds are used effectively for their intended purpose.
    - Read the audit

- Louisiana audit finds issues with treatment of incarcerated pregnant women (5/26/2025)
  - According to a report by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, many local jails and correctional facilities in Louisiana are not complying with state laws regarding the treatment of incarcerated women, particularly those who are pregnant. The audit found improper use of leg irons on pregnant and birthing women at three facilities, limited access to OB care, and widespread lack of documentation and written procedures meeting legal requirements. Additionally, 22 of 38 local jails surveyed reported that women do not consistently receive equal access to educational, vocational, and recreational programming compared to men.
    - Read the report

- Louisiana passes REINS Act-inspired legislative oversight (Ballotpedia, 6/11/2025)
  - Louisiana has enacted its own version of the REINS Act, requiring legislative oversight of any state agency regulation projected to cost more than $200,000 annually. Under the new law, such rules must receive approval from relevant legislative oversight subcommittees before taking effect. Supporters argue this increases accountability, while critics caution it may delay necessary regulatory actions.

- Louisiana investigations reveal systemic failures protecting disabled citizens from abuse (KPEL965, 8/12/2025)

- According to multiple Louisiana Legislative Auditor reports from 2022 to 2025, state agencies responsible for protecting people with disabilities exhibited systemic failures, including abuse investigations taking an average of nearly 400 days, during which accused caregivers often remained on the job. Audits also found that the Louisiana Department of Health did not meet its oversight goals for Home and Community-Based Services providers, with nearly 25% unsurveyed over a five-year period, and identified monitoring gaps in support coordination and child protection systems. Legislative oversight has increased, with regular hearings scheduled and the creation of a child ombudsman under the auditor's office, while the Department of Health has agreed to some reforms but cites staffing shortages as a major barrier.

- Legislative auditor creates email address for New Orleans financial crisis matters (WDSU6, 11/10/2025)
  - According to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, New Orleans officials used a personal email address to manage city finances during a period of significant budget shortfalls. An audit report raised concerns about transparency and internal controls, noting the lack of proper oversight mechanisms. The findings prompted calls from legislators for stronger financial governance and adherence to public records laws.

- New Orleans EMS response times fall short in inspector general report (WDSU, 4/16/2026)
  - A New Orleans inspector general report found that EMS response times frequently failed to meet city targets, particularly for the most urgent calls. According to the report, staffing shortages, high call volumes, and operational inefficiencies contributed to delays in emergency response. The inspector general recommended changes to deployment practices, staffing, and performance monitoring to improve response times.

- Audit: DCFS has several ongoing issues, including with temporary assistance, foster care programs (WBRZ2, 5/19/2026)
  - A Louisiana Legislative Auditor report found repeated deficiencies at the Department of Children and Family Services involving foster care payments, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families administration, fuel card oversight, and federal reporting compliance. According to the audit, inadequate documentation and control weaknesses resulted in questioned costs, payment errors, and potential misuse of state resources, including an employee’s alleged personal use of state vehicles valued at roughly $10,000. The report recommended stronger

internal controls and noted that several findings, including federal reporting noncompliance, have persisted for multiple years.
    - Read the report

- Audit finds gaps in Louisiana sexual assault response system (The Center Square, 7/2/2026)
    - According to a Louisiana Legislative Auditor report, the state's response to sexual assault remains fragmented, with no single entity overseeing regional response plans, uneven access to trained sexual assault nurse examiners and advocacy services, and significant reliance on declining federal funding. The audit found gaps in coordination among agencies, challenges recruiting and retaining specialized staff, and limited statewide measures of survivor outcomes despite years of legislative reforms. Auditors recommended that lawmakers strengthen statewide oversight, evaluate long-term funding, expand access to trained nurses, improve interagency coordination, and develop outcome-based performance measures.

- Almost 20% of rape kits in Louisiana never make it to a crime lab, audit finds (Louisiana Illuminator, 11/10/2026)
    - The Louisiana Legislative Auditor found that 337 of the 1,879 rape kits collected in cases reported to law enforcement from July 2024 through December 2025 had yet to reach a crime lab by February 2026. Police missed pickup or delivery deadlines in more than a quarter of the cases reviewed, and Louisiana law leaves labs discretion over whether to test every kit they receive. State Police agreed to improve kit tracking and standardize how labs report potential DNA matches, while the auditor said lawmakers would need to clarify whether every reported kit must be tested.