

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT



News & Updates

from the Office of the State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump

Making government work better



Suzanne M. Bump
State Auditor

Dear Friend,

In last month's edition of the Auditor's Report, we told you about our recently released [audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board \(SORB\), which found nearly 1,800 offenders in violation of their reporting requirement](#).

Recently, [I testified before the Joint Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security about our audit's findings](#), and more importantly the steps that must be taken to address these problems. I called for a change of culture and mindset at SORB, from one that is passive—managing and processing information that comes to them—to one that is active—seeking out information about those who are out of compliance, innovating to overcome challenges they face, and taking advantage of the tools and resources at their disposal to ensure they meet their mission. Lawmakers on the committee seem to want to take action to improve the effectiveness of SORB and explore other issues related to its practices.

SORB plays a critical role in ensuring the public's safety in Massachusetts communities. It is tasked with informing residents of potentially dangerous individuals living in their communities. It's my hope that our audit will help the agency better accomplish its public safety mission.



Thank you,

Suzanne M. Bump
Auditor of the Commonwealth

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Recent Audits/Reports

[Office of Medicaid \(MassHealth\) - Review of Hospice Care Billing: Good Shepard Community Care](#)

[Supporting Student and Community Success: Updating the Structure and Finance of Massachusetts Regional School Districts](#)

[Financial Impacts of Educator Evaluations on the Framingham Public Schools](#)

[View more audits](#)

Recent Press Releases

[Auditor Bump Visits Carter & Stevens Farm to Discuss State Agricultural Programs](#)

[Auditor Bump Tours Quabbin Reservoir to Discuss Water Infrastructure](#)

[Medford Woman Indicted for Social Security, Medicare, MassHealth, and Food Stamp Fraud](#)

[Auditor Bump Visits Jefferson to Discuss Needed Improvements to Regional School District Structure](#)

[Auditor Bump Calls for Greater Accountability of State Tax Collections](#)

[Auditor Suzanne M. Bump Calls for More Active Oversight from Sex Offender Registry Board](#)

[Auditor Bump Calls for State Administration of Wastewater Standards, Changes to Proposed Program Funding](#)

[Bump Calls for Modernization of Massachusetts Regional School Structure](#)

[Auditor Bump Meets with LGBTQ Youth Commission Staff, Discusses Priorities and Future Work](#)

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Ben Tafoya, Director of the Division of Local Mandates, testifies before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight at the State House on October 25 in support of the municipal impact statement bills.

OSA Focus: Addressing Municipal Impacts

A 2016 study by the Office of State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump found that 97 laws enacted from 2011 through 2015 imposed a significant fiscal impact on cities and towns but did not constitute an unfunded mandate under the strict definition of that law. These laws strain local government budgets for communities that already struggle to make ends meet.

In this study, Auditor Bump called on the Legislature to pass a measure that would require state agencies to file a municipal impact statement with her office when adopting, amending, or repealing regulations. This would allow the OSA to provide recommendations to the agency on steps that can be taken to reduce the fiscal impact on local governments.

Last month, the [director of Auditor Bump's Division of Local Mandates testified in support of bills sponsored by Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives and Rep. Theodore Speliotis that would implement this recommendation](#). During his testimony, he told the committee, "This is a simple, no-cost solution with the potential to greatly strengthen the partnership between our state agencies and our state's municipalities."

Over the coming weeks, Auditor Bump, her staff, and legislative sponsors will continue to work to ensure this important measure is passed into law. We hope that you'll lend your voice to this effort, and contact your lawmakers to encourage them to support this measure.

OSA's Work Makes Headlines

[Regional school underfunding must be fixed](#)

Following a report on Regional School Districts, the Springfield Republican calls on the Legislature and Governor Baker to address funding and regulatory challenges for these school districts.

[Audit: 1.8K Mass. Sex Offenders Don't Have Listed Addresses](#)

Auditor Bump testified in support of more active oversight for the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) at a public hearing of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. NBC Boston reports on the legislative hearing.



Auditor Bump recently spoke with Alison King of NBC Boston about revelations of sexual harassment in the State House. [Learn more about what Auditor Bump thinks should be done to address this issue.](#)

[Auditor: For incentive on regionalizing schools, dangle financial carrots](#)

Fully funding transportation reimbursements and addressing archaic funding formulas can encourage further regionalization of school districts and support student success, reports the Berkshire Eagle.

[Women share stories of persistence, resilience at Worcester forum](#)

Looking to inspire the next generation of women leaders, Auditor Bump participated in a panel discussion and shared her lessons learned on the path to leadership with other women, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette reports.

Accountability in Action: Supporting Student and Community Success

One of the most difficult tasks facing government is engaging in effective long-term planning. It requires policymakers to look not only at their needs in the next year or next budget, but to take a more global approach by looking ten and twenty years down the road. This is especially true when a community or state looks at their public educational needs for years to come.

Last month, the Office of State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump (OSA) [released a report](#) that highlights the unique challenges facing regional school districts (RSDs), and provides recommendations to modernize their structure and funding to support student and community success.

Under Massachusetts law, towns are able to regionalize public education across municipal boundaries with the goal of reducing administrative and overhead costs. However, the report found that significant challenges related to demographics, structures, and state funding negatively impact existing RSDs, and discourage additional regionalization.

Among her recommendations, Bump has called on the Commonwealth to develop deeper incentives to encourage communities to regionalize, fully funding its commitment to reimburse 100 percent of regional transportation expenses, and offer planning grants to explore the combination of existing RSDs into larger groupings. Additionally, she calls on the Legislature to streamline the budget adoption process for RSDs and to examine and revise inconsistent funding formulas for children whose families choose educational options outside of their home community.

Since the report's release, Auditor Bump has worked with lawmakers to ensure they understand the issues and recommendations highlighted in the report, and will continue to serve as an advocate for improving public educational opportunities for students throughout the Commonwealth.



Auditor Suzanne Bump's discusses her recent report on Massachusetts regional school districts with members of the Wachusett Regional School District. Wachusett was one of three districts profiled in the report..



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The Auditor's Report

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