As Passed by the Senate

130th General Assembly Regular Session 2013-2014

Sub. S. B. No. 6

Senator Schaffer

Cosponsors: Senators Jordan, LaRose, Smith, Brown, Uecker, Lehner, Widener, Tavares, Skindell, Beagle, Coley, Eklund, Hughes, Jones, Obhof, Oelslager, Peterson, Sawyer, Turner

A BILL

| То | amend sections 305.03, 319.04, 319.26, 321.37, | 1 |
|----|--|----|
| | 321.46, 507.02, 2921.13, 2921.44, and 3314.023; to | 2 |
| | enact sections 117.45, 507.12, 507.13, 733.78, | 3 |
| | 733.81, 3313.30, 3314.50, 3326.211, 3328.16, and | 4 |
| | 3328.37; and to repeal sections 319.25 and 321.38 | 5 |
| | of the Revised Code; to amend Section 267.50.70 of | б |
| | Am. Sub. H.B. 153 of the 129th General Assembly; | 7 |
| | and to amend Section 267.50.70 of Am. Sub. H.B. | 8 |
| | 153 of the 129th General Assembly for the purpose | 9 |
| | of codifying it as section 3314.51 of the Revised | 10 |
| | Code to establish initial education programs and | 11 |
| | continuing education requirements for the fiscal | 12 |
| | officers of townships and municipal corporations, | 13 |
| | to establish procedures for removing those | 14 |
| | officers, county treasurers, and county auditors | 15 |
| | from office, and to create fiscal accountability | 16 |
| | requirements for counties, townships, municipal | 17 |
| | corporations, and public schools. | 18 |

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

 Section 1. That sections 305.03, 319.04, 319.26, 321.37,
 19

 321.46, 507.02, 2921.13, 2921.44, and 3314.023 be amended;
 20

 sections 117.45, 507.12, 507.13, 733.78, 733.81, 3313.30, 3314.50,
 21

 3326.211, 3328.16, and 3328.37 of the Revised Code be enacted; and
 22

 Section 267.50.70 of Am. Sub. H.B. 153 of the 129th General
 23

 Assembly be amended and codified as section 3314.51 of the Revised
 24

 Code to read as follows:
 25

Sec. 117.45. The auditor of state shall establish by rule the26format for submitting a sworn affidavit and supporting evidence27under sections 319.26, 321.37, 507.13, and 733.78 of the Revised28Code.29

Sec. 305.03. (A)(1) Whenever any county officer, except the 30 county auditor or county treasurer, fails to perform the duties of 31 office for ninety consecutive days, except in case of sickness or 32 injury as provided in divisions (B) and (C) of this section, the 33 office shall be deemed vacant. 34

(2) Whenever any county auditor or county treasurer fails to35perform the duties of office for thirty consecutive days, except36in case of sickness or injury as provided in divisions (B) and (C)37of this section, the office shall be deemed vacant.38

(B) Whenever any county officer is absent because of sickness 39 or injury, the officer shall cause to be filed with the board of 40 county commissioners a physician's certificate of the officer's 41 sickness or injury. If such the certificate is not filed with the 42 board within ten days after the expiration of thirty consecutive 43 days, in the case of a county auditor or county treasurer, or 44 within ten days after the expiration of ninety consecutive days of 45 absence, in the case of all other county officers, the office 46 shall be deemed vacant. 47

(C) Whenever a county officer files a physician's certificate 48

under division (B) of this section, but continues to be absent for 49 an additional thirty days commencing immediately after the last 50 day on which this certificate may be filed under division (B) of 51 this section, the office shall be deemed vacant. 52

(D) If at any time two county commissioners in a county are 53 absent and have filed a physician's certificate under division (B) 54 of this section, the county coroner, in addition to performing the 55 duties of coroner, shall serve as county commissioner until at 56 least one of the absent commissioners returns to office or until 57 the office of at least one of the absent commissioners is deemed 58 vacant under this section and the vacancy is filled. If the 59 coroner so requests, the coroner shall be paid a per diem rate for 60 the coroner's service as a commissioner. That per diem rate shall 61 be the annual salary specified by law for a county commissioner of 62 that county whose term of office began in the same year as the 63 coroner's term of office began, divided by the number of days in 64 the year. 65

While the coroner is serving as a county commissioner, the 66 coroner shall be considered an acting county commissioner and 67 shall perform the duties of the office of county commissioner 68 until at least one of the absent commissioners returns to office 69 or until the office of at least one of the absent commissioners is 70 deemed vacant. Before assuming the office of acting county 71 commissioner, the coroner shall take an oath of office as provided 72 in sections 3.22 and 3.23 of the Revised Code. The coroner's 73 service as an acting county commissioner does not constitute the 74 holding of an incompatible public office or employment in 75 violation of any statutory or common law prohibition against the 76 simultaneous holding of more than one public officer office or 77 employment. 78

The coroner shall give a new bond in the same amount and 79 signed and approved as provided in section 305.04 of the Revised 80 Code. The bond shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of81the coroner's duties as acting county commissioner and for the82payment of any loss or damage that the county may sustain by83reason of the coroner's failure in those duties. The bond, along84with the oath of office and approval of the probate judge indorsed85on it, shall be deposited and paid for as provided for the bonds86in section 305.04 of the Revised Code.87

(E) Any vacancy declared under this section shall be filled 88 in the manner provided by section 305.02 of the Revised Code. 89

(F) This section shall not apply to a county officer while in 90the active military service of the United States. 91

sec. 319.04. (A) Each county auditor who is elected to a full 92 term of office shall attend and successfully complete at least 93 sixteen hours of continuing education courses during the first 94 year of the auditor's term of office, and complete at least 95 another eight hours of such courses by the end of that term. Each 96 such county auditor shall include at least two hours of ethics and 97 substance-abuse training in the total twenty-four hours of 98 required courses. To be counted toward the twenty-four hours 99 required by this section, a course must be approved by the county 100 auditors association of Ohio. Any county auditor who teaches an 101 approved course shall be entitled to credit for the course in the 102 same manner as if the county auditor had attended the course. 103

That association shall record and, upon request, verify the 104 completion of required course work for each county auditor, and 105 issue a statement to each county auditor of the number of hours of 106 continuing education the county auditor has successfully 107 completed. Each year the association shall send a list of the 108 continuing education courses, and the number of hours each county 109 auditor has successfully completed, to the auditor of state and 110 the tax commissioner, and shall provide a copy of this list to any 111

other individual who requests it.

The association auditor of state shall issue a certificate of 113 completion to each county auditor who completes the continuing 114 education courses required by this section. The auditor of state 115 shall issue a "notice of failure" to any county auditor required 116 to complete continuing education courses under this section who 117 fails to successfully complete at least sixteen hours of 118 continuing education courses during the first year of the county 119 auditor's term of office or to complete a total of at least 120 twenty-four hours of such courses by the end of that term. This 121 notice is for informational purposes only and does not affect any 122 individual's ability to hold the office of county auditor. 123

(B) Each board of county commissioners shall approve, from 124
money appropriated to the county auditor, a reasonable amount 125
requested by the county auditor of its county to cover the costs 126
the county auditor must incur to meet the requirements of division 127
(A) of this section, including registration fees, lodging and meal 128
expenses, and travel expenses. 129

sec. 319.26. When the board of county commissioners suspends 130 (A)(1) If a county auditor from the performance of his duties, as 131 provided in section 319.25 of the Revised Code, it shall 132 immediately cause a prosecution to be instituted against him. If 133 the grand jury within four months of the date of the suspension 134 fails to find and present an indictment against such auditor, or 135 if an indictment is found and upon trial he is acquitted, such 136 auditor shall be restored to the possession of his office and of 137 the rights, duties, and obligations of such office. The person 138 appointed as provided in section 319.25 of the Revised Code to 139 perform the duties of the auditor shall vacate and cease to have 140 any rights in such office purposely, knowingly, or recklessly 141 fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to 142

| the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or | 143 |
|--|-----|
| recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with | 144 |
| respect to the office of county auditor, the county treasurer or a | 145 |
| county commissioner may submit a sworn affidavit alleging the | 146 |
| violation, together with evidence supporting the allegations, to | 147 |
| the auditor of state. The sworn affidavit and evidence shall be | 148 |
| submitted in the format prescribed by rule of the auditor of state | 149 |
| under section 117.45 of the Revised Code. A person who makes a | 150 |
| false statement in a sworn affidavit, for purposes of this | 151 |
| section, is guilty of falsification under section 2921.13 of the | 152 |
| Revised Code. | 153 |
| (2) The auditor of state shall review the sworn affidavit and | 154 |
| the evidence. Within ten business days after receiving the sworn | 155 |
| affidavit, unless, for good cause, additional time is required, | 156 |
| the auditor of state shall determine whether clear and convincing | 157 |
| evidence supports the allegations. If the auditor of state finds | 158 |
| that no allegation is supported by clear and convincing evidence, | 159 |
| the auditor of state shall submit those findings in writing to the | 160 |
| county auditor and the person initiating the sworn affidavit. If | 161 |
| the auditor of state finds by clear and convincing evidence that | 162 |
| an allegation is supported by the evidence, the auditor of state | 163 |
| shall submit those findings in writing to the attorney general, | 164 |
| the county auditor, and the person who initiated the sworn | 165 |
| affidavit. The findings shall include a copy of the sworn | 166 |
| affidavit and the evidence submitted under division (A)(1) of this | 167 |
| section. | 168 |
| (3)(a) The attorney general shall review the auditor of | 169 |
| state's findings and the sworn affidavit and evidence. Within ten | 170 |
| business days after receiving the sworn affidavit and evidence, | 171 |
| unless, for good cause, additional time is required, the attorney | 172 |
| general shall determine whether clear and convincing evidence | 173 |

supports the allegations. If the attorney general finds that no

| allegation is supported by clear and convincing evidence, the | 175 |
|--|--|
| attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of | 176 |
| state, the county auditor, and the person who initiated the sworn | 177 |
| affidavit, that no complaint for the removal of the county auditor | 178 |
| from public office will be filed. | 179 |
| (b) If the attorney general finds by clear and convincing | 180 |
| evidence that an allegation is supported by the evidence, the | 181 |
| attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of | 182 |
| state, the county auditor, and the person who initiated the sworn | 183 |
| affidavit of that fact, and shall commence an action for the | 184 |
| removal of the county auditor from public office under division | 185 |
| (B) of this section. | 186 |
| (c) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the | 187 |
| authority of the attorney general to enter into mediation, | 188 |
| settlement, or resolution of any alleged violation before or | 189 |
| following the commencement of an action under this section. | 190 |
| | |
| (B)(1) The attorney general has a cause of action for removal | 191 |
| (B)(1) The attorney general has a cause of action for removal of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails | 191 192 |
| | |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails | 192 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the | 192 193 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly | 192 193 194 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the | 192 193 194 195 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after | 192 193 194 195 196 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the | 192 193 194 195 196 197 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the county auditor by filing a complaint for the removal of the county | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the county auditor by filing a complaint for the removal of the county auditor from public office. If any money is due, the attorney | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the county auditor by filing a complaint for the removal of the county auditor from public office. If any money is due, the attorney general shall join the sureties on the county auditor's bond as | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the county auditor by filing a complaint for the removal of the county auditor from public office. If any money is due, the attorney general shall join the sureties on the county auditor's bond as parties. The court of common pleas of the county in which the | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 201 |
| of a county auditor who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the office of county auditor. Not later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the county auditor by filing a complaint for the removal of the county auditor from public office. If any money is due, the attorney general shall join the sureties on the county auditor's bond as parties. The court of common pleas of the county in which the county auditor holds office has exclusive original jurisdiction of | 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 |

| the action was filed. The action is governed by the Rules of Civil | 207 |
|--|-----|
| Procedure. | 208 |
| Except as otherwise provided in this division, an action for | 209 |
| removal from office under this section is stayed during the | 210 |
| pendency of any criminal action concerning a violation of an | 211 |
| existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other | 212 |
| state or the United States that is substantially equivalent to any | 213 |
| criminal violation in Title 29 of the Revised Code related to | 214 |
| conduct in office if the person charged in the criminal action | 215 |
| committed the violation while serving as a county auditor and the | 216 |
| conduct constituting the violation was related to the duties of | 217 |
| the office of county auditor or to the person's actions as the | 218 |
| county auditor. The stay may be lifted upon motion of the | 219 |
| prosecuting attorney in the related criminal action. | 220 |
| (2) Prior to or at the hearing, upon a showing of good cause, | 221 |
| the court may issue an order restraining the county auditor from | 222 |
| entering the county auditor's office and from conducting the | 223 |
| affairs of the office pending the hearing on the complaint. If | 224 |
| such an order is issued, the court may continue the order until | 225 |
| the conclusion of the hearing and any appeals under this section. | 226 |
| (3) The board of county commissioners shall be responsible | 227 |
| for the payment of reasonable attorney's fees for counsel for the | 228 |
| county auditor. If judgment is entered against the county auditor, | 229 |
| the court shall order the county auditor to reimburse the board | 230 |
| for attorney's fees and costs up to a reasonable amount, as | 231 |
| determined by the court. Expenses incurred by the board in a | 232 |
| removal action shall be paid out of the county general fund. | 233 |
| (C) The judgment of the court is final and conclusive unless | 234 |
| reversed, vacated, or modified on appeal. An appeal may be taken | 235 |
| by any party, and shall proceed as in the case of appeals in civil | 236 |
| actions and in accordance with the Rules of Appellate Procedure. | 237 |
| Upon the filing of a notice of appeal by any party to the | 238 |

| Procedure. | The | county | auditor | has | the | right | of | review | or | appeal | to | 241 |
|------------|-----|-------------|---------|-----|-----|-------|----|--------|----|--------|----|-----|
| the suprem | | <u>urt.</u> | | | | | | | | | | 242 |

(D)(1) If a final judgment for removal from public office is 243 entered against the county auditor, the office shall be deemed 244 vacated, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in section 245 305.02 of the Revised Code. Except as otherwise provided by law, 246 an individual removed from public office under this section is not 247 entitled to hold any public office for four years following the 248 date of the final judgment, and is not entitled to hold any public 249 office until any repayment or restitution required by the court is 250 satisfied. 251

(2) If the court finds with clear and convincing evidence 252 that the county auditor purposely, knowingly, or recklessly failed 253 to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the 254 office of county auditor or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly 255 committed any act expressly prohibited by law, the court shall 256 issue an order removing the county auditor from office and any 257 order necessary for the preservation or restitution of public 258 funds. 259

(E)(1) A person acts purposely when it is the person's260specific intention to cause a certain result, or when the gist of261the offense is a prohibition against conduct of a certain nature,262regardless of what the person intends to accomplish thereby, it is263the person's specific intention to engage in conduct of that264nature.265

(2) A person acts knowingly, regardless of the person's266purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will267probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain268nature. A person has knowledge of circumstances when the person is269aware that such circumstances probably exist.270

to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk 272 that the person's conduct is likely to cause a certain result or 273 is likely to be of a certain nature. A person is reckless with 274 respect to circumstances when, with heedless indifference to the 275 consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk that 276 such circumstances are likely to exist. 277 (F) The proceedings provided for in this section may be used 278 as an alternative to the removal proceedings prescribed under 279 sections 3.07 to 3.10 of the Revised Code or other methods of 280 removal authorized by law. 281 Sec. 321.37. (A)(1) If the county treasurer fails to make a 282 settlement or to pay over money as prescribed by law purposely, 283 knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed 284 by law with respect to the office of county treasurer or 285 purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly 286 prohibited by law with respect to the office of county treasurer, 287 the county auditor or board of a county commissioners shall cause 288 suit to be instituted against such treasurer and his surety or 289 sureties for the amount due, with ten per cent penalty on such 290 amount, which suit shall have precedence of over all civil 291 business commissioner may submit a sworn affidavit alleging the 292 violation, together with evidence supporting the allegations, to 293 the auditor of state. The sworn affidavit and evidence shall be 294 submitted in the format prescribed by rule of the auditor of state 295 under section 117.45 of the Revised Code. A person who makes a 296 false statement in a sworn affidavit, for purposes of this 297 section, is guilty of falsification under section 2921.13 of the 298 Revised Code. 299

(3) A person acts recklessly when, with heedless indifference

(2) The auditor of state shall review the sworn affidavit and300the evidence. Within ten business days after receiving the sworn301

| affidavit and evidence, unless, for good cause, additional time is | 302 |
|--|-----|
| required, the auditor of state shall determine whether clear and | 303 |
| convincing evidence supports the allegations. If the auditor of | 304 |
| state finds that no allegation is supported by clear and | 305 |
| convincing evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those | 306 |
| findings in writing to the county treasurer and the person who | 307 |
| initiated the sworn affidavit. If the auditor of state finds by | 308 |
| clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is supported by | 309 |
| the evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those findings in | 310 |
| writing to the attorney general, the county treasurer, and the | 311 |
| person who initiated the sworn affidavit. The findings shall | 312 |
| include a copy of the sworn affidavit and the evidence submitted | 313 |
| under division (A)(1) of this section. | 314 |
| (3)(a) The attorney general shall review the auditor of | 315 |
| state's findings and the sworn affidavit and evidence. Within ten | 316 |
| business days after receiving them, unless, for good cause, | 317 |
| additional time is required, the attorney general shall determine | 318 |
| whether clear and convincing evidence supports the allegations. If | 319 |
| the attorney general finds that no allegation is supported by | 320 |
| clear and convincing evidence, the attorney general, by certified | 321 |
| mail, shall notify the auditor of state, the county treasurer, and | 322 |
| the person who initiated the sworn affidavit, that no complaint | 323 |
| for the removal of the county treasurer from public office will be | 324 |
| <u>filed.</u> | 325 |
| (b) If the attorney general finds by clear and convincing | 326 |
| evidence that an allegation is supported by the evidence, the | 327 |
| attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of | 328 |
| state, the county treasurer, and the person who initiated the | 329 |
| sworn affidavit of that fact, and shall commence an action for the | 330 |
| removal of the county treasurer from public office under division | 331 |
| (B) of this section. | 332 |
| | |

(c) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the 333

| authority of the attorney general to enter into mediation, | 334 |
|--|-----|
| settlement, or resolution of any alleged violation before or | 335 |
| following the commencement of an action under this section. | 336 |
| (B)(1) The attorney general has a cause of action for removal | 337 |
| of a county treasurer who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly | 338 |
| fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to | 339 |
| the office of county treasurer or purposely, knowingly, or | 340 |
| recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with | 341 |
| respect to the office of county treasurer. Not later than | 342 |
| forty-five days after sending a notice under division (A)(3)(b) of | 343 |
| this section, the attorney general shall cause an action to be | 344 |
| commenced against the county treasurer by filing a complaint for | 345 |
| the removal of the county treasurer from public office. If any | 346 |
| money is due, the attorney general shall join the sureties on the | 347 |
| county treasurer's bond as parties. The court of common pleas of | 348 |
| the county in which the county treasurer holds office has | 349 |
| exclusive original jurisdiction of the action. The action shall | 350 |
| proceed de novo as in the trial of a civil action. The court is | 351 |
| not restricted to the evidence that was presented to the auditor | 352 |
| of state and the attorney general before the action was filed. The | 353 |
| action is governed by the Rules of Civil Procedure. | 354 |
| Except as otherwise provided in this division, an action for | 355 |
| removal from office under this section is stayed during the | 356 |

pendency of any criminal action concerning a violation of an 357 existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other 358 state or the United States that is substantially equivalent to any 359 criminal violation in Title 29 of the Revised Code related to 360 conduct in office if the person charged in the criminal action 361 committed the violation while serving as a county treasurer and 362 the conduct constituting the violation was related to the duties 363 of the office of county treasurer or to the person's actions as 364 the county treasurer. The stay may be lifted upon motion of the 365

| prosecuting attorney in the related criminal action. | 366 |
|--|-----|
| (2) Prior to or at the hearing, upon a showing of good cause, | 367 |
| the court may issue an order restraining the county treasurer from | 368 |
| entering the county treasurer's office and from conducting the | 369 |
| affairs of the office pending the hearing on the complaint. If | 370 |
| such an order is issued, the court may continue the order until | 371 |
| the conclusion of the hearing and any appeals under this section. | 372 |
| (3) The board of county commissioners shall be responsible | 373 |
| for the payment of reasonable attorney's fees for counsel for the | 374 |
| county treasurer. If judgment is entered against the county | 375 |
| treasurer, the court shall order the county treasurer to reimburse | 376 |
| the board for attorney's fees and costs up to a reasonable amount, | 377 |
| as determined by the court. Expenses incurred by the board in a | 378 |
| removal action shall be paid out of the county general fund. | 379 |
| (C) The judgment of the court is final and conclusive unless | 380 |
| reversed, vacated, or modified on appeal. An appeal may be taken | 381 |
| by any party, and shall proceed as in the case of appeals in civil | 382 |
| actions and in accordance with the Rules of Appellate Procedure. | 383 |
| <u>Upon the filing of a notice of appeal by any party to the</u> | 384 |
| proceedings, the court of appeals shall hear the case as an | 385 |
| expedited appeal under Rule 11.2 of the Rules of Appellate | 386 |
| Procedure. The county treasurer has the right of review or appeal | 387 |
| to the supreme court. | 388 |
| (D)(1) If a final judgment for removal from public office is | 389 |
| entered against the county treasurer, the office shall be deemed | 390 |
| vacated, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in section | 391 |
| 305.02 of the Revised Code. Except as otherwise provided by law, | 392 |
| an individual removed from public office under this section is not | 393 |
| entitled to hold any public office for four years following the | 394 |
| date of the final judgment, and is not entitled to hold any public | 395 |
| office until any repayment or restitution required by the court is | 396 |
| satisfied. | 397 |

| (2) If the court finds with clear and convincing evidence | 398 |
|--|-----|
| that the county treasurer purposely, knowingly, or recklessly | 399 |
| failed to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to | 400 |
| the office of county treasurer or purposely, knowingly, or | 401 |
| recklessly committed any act expressly prohibited by law, the | 402 |
| court shall issue an order removing the county treasurer from | 403 |
| office and any order necessary for the preservation or restitution | 404 |
| of public funds. | 405 |
| (E)(1) A person acts purposely when it is the person's | 406 |
| specific intention to cause a certain result, or when the gist of | 407 |
| the offense is a prohibition against conduct of a certain nature, | 408 |
| regardless of what the person intends to accomplish thereby, it is | 409 |
| the person's specific intention to engage in conduct of that | 410 |
| nature. | 411 |
| (2) A person acts knowingly, regardless of the person's | 412 |
| purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will | 413 |
| probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain | 414 |
| nature. A person has knowledge of circumstances when the person is | 415 |
| aware that such circumstances probably exist. | 416 |
| (3) A person acts recklessly when, with heedless indifference | 417 |
| to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk | 418 |
| that the person's conduct is likely to cause a certain result or | 419 |
| is likely to be of a certain nature. A person is reckless with | 420 |
| respect to circumstances when, with heedless indifference to the | 421 |
| consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk that | 422 |
| such circumstances are likely to exist. | 423 |
| (F) The proceedings provided for in this section may be used | 424 |
| as an alternative to the removal proceedings prescribed under | 425 |
| sections 3.07 to 3.10 of the Revised Code or other methods of | 426 |

removal authorized by law.

knowledge of county treasurers in governmental accounting,429portfolio reporting and compliance, investments, and cash430management, the auditor of state and the treasurer of state shall431conduct education programs for persons elected for the first time432to the office of county treasurer and shall hold biennial433continuing education programs courses for persons who continue to434hold the office of county treasurer.Education

Initial education programs for newly elected county 436 treasurers shall be held between the first day of December and the 437 first Monday of September next following that person's election to 438 the office of county treasurer. Similar initial training education 439 programs may also be provided to any county treasurer who is 440 appointed to fill a vacancy or who is elected at a special 441 election. 442

(B)(1) The auditor of state shall determine the manner and 443 content of the <u>initial</u> education programs in the subject areas of 444 governmental accounting and portfolio reporting and compliance. In 445 those areas, newly elected county treasurers shall take at least 446 thirteen hours of education before taking office. 447

(2) The treasurer of state shall determine the manner and
 (2) The treasurer of state shall determine the manner and
 (2) The treasurer of state shall determine the manner and
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(3)(a) After completing one year in office, a county 453 treasurer shall take not less than twenty-four hours of continuing 454 education during each biennial cycle. For purposes of division 455 (B)(3)(a) of this section, a biennial cycle for continuing 456 education shall be every two calendar years after the treasurer's 457 first year in office. The treasurer of state shall determine the 458 manner and content of the continuing education programs courses in 459 the subject areas of investments, cash management, the collection 460 of taxes, ethics, and any other subject area that the treasurer of 461 state determines is reasonably related to the duties of the office 462 of the county treasurer. The auditor of state shall determine the 463 manner and content of the continuing education programs courses in 464 the subject areas of governmental accounting, portfolio reporting 465 and compliance, office management, and any other subject area that 466 the auditor of state determines is reasonably related to the 467 duties of the office of the county treasurer. 468

(b) A county treasurer who accumulates more than twenty-four 469 hours of continuing education in a biennial cycle described in 470 division (B)(3)(a) of this section may credit the hours in excess 471 of twenty-four hours to the next biennial cycle. However, 472 regardless of the total number of hours earned, no more than six 473 hours in the continuing education programs determined by the 474 treasurer of state pursuant to division (B)(3)(a) of this section 475 and six hours in the continuing education programs determined by 476 the auditor of state pursuant to that division shall be carried 477 over to the next biennial cycle. 478

(c) A county treasurer who participates in a training program 479
or seminar established under section 109.43 of the Revised Code 480
may apply the three hours of training to the twenty-four hours of 481
continuing education required in a biennial cycle under division 482
(B)(3)(a) of this section. 483

(C) The auditor of state and the treasurer of state may each 484 charge counties a registration fee that will meet actual and 485 necessary expenses of the training of county treasurers, including 486 instructor fees, site acquisition costs, and the cost of course 487 materials. The necessary personal expenses of county treasurers as 488 a result of attending the training initial education programs and 489 continuing education courses shall be borne by the counties the 490 treasurers represent. 491

(D) The auditor of state and the treasurer of state may allow 492

any other interested person to attend any of the <u>initial</u> education 493 programs that are <u>or continuing education courses</u> held pursuant to 494 this section, provided that before attending any such education 495 program <u>or course</u>, the interested person shall pay to either the 496 auditor of state or the treasurer of state, as appropriate, the 497 full registration fee set for the education program <u>or course</u>. 498

(E)(1) If a county treasurer fails to complete the initial 499 education programs required by this section before taking office, 500 the treasurer's authority to invest county funds and to manage the 501 county portfolio immediately is suspended, and this authority is 502 transferred to the county's investment advisory committee until 503 full compliance with the initial education programs is determined 504 by the treasurer of state. 505

(2) If a county treasurer fails to complete continuing
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education programs as required by this section, the county
treasurer is subject to divisions (B) to (E) of section 321.47 of
the Revised Code, including possible suspension of the treasurer's
authority to invest county funds and to manage the county
portfolio and transfer of this authority to the county's
investment advisory committee.

(F)(1) Notwithstanding divisions (B) and (E) of this section, 513 a county treasurer who fails to complete the initial education 514 programs or continuing education programs required by this section 515 shall invest only in the Ohio subdivisions fund pursuant to 516 division (A)(6) of section 135.35 of the Revised Code, in no load 517 money market mutual funds pursuant to division (A)(5) of section 518 135.35 of the Revised Code, or in time certificates of deposit or 519 savings or deposit accounts pursuant to division (A)(3) of section 520 135.35 of the Revised Code. 521

(2) A county treasurer who has failed to complete the initial
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education programs required by this section and invests in other
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than the investments permitted by division (F)(1) of this section
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immediately shall have the county treasurer's authority to invest
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county funds and to manage the county portfolio suspended, and
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this authority shall be transferred to the county's investment
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advisory committee until full compliance with the initial
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education programs is determined by the treasurer of state.

(3) If a county treasurer fails to complete continuing 530 education programs required by this section and invests in other 531 than the investments permitted by division (F)(1) of this section, 532 the county treasurer is subject to divisions (B) to (E) of section 533 321.47 of the Revised Code, including possible suspension of the 534 treasurer's authority to invest county funds and to manage the 535 county portfolio and transfer of this authority to the county's 536 investment advisory committee. 537

(G)(1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the
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county treasurer education fund, to be used by the treasurer of
state for actual and necessary expenses of <u>initial</u> education
programs <u>and continuing education</u> held pursuant to this section
and section 135.22 of the Revised Code. All registration fees
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collected by the treasurer of state under this section and section
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135.22 of the Revised Code shall be paid into that fund.

(2) All registration fees collected by the auditor of state
 545
 under this section shall be paid into the auditor of state
 546
 training program fund established under section 117.44 of the
 547
 Revised Code.

(H) The treasurer of state, with the advice and consent of
the auditor of state, may adopt reasonable rules not inconsistent
with this section for the implementation of this section.

sec. 507.02. When a township fiscal officer is unable to 552
carry out the duties of office because of illness, because of 553
entering the military service of the United States, because of a 554
court ordered suspension as provided for under section 507.13 of 555

....

the Revised Code, or because the fiscal officer is otherwise 556 incapacitated or disqualified, the board of township trustees 557 shall appoint a deputy fiscal officer, who shall have full power 558 to discharge the duties of the office. The deputy fiscal officer 559 shall serve during the period of time the fiscal officer is absent 560 or incapacitated, or until a successor fiscal officer is elected 561 and qualified. Before entering on the discharge of official 562 duties, the deputy fiscal officer shall give bond, for the 563 faithful discharge of official duties, as required under section 564 507.03 of the Revised Code. The board shall, by resolution, adjust 565 and determine the compensation of the fiscal officer and deputy 566 fiscal officer. The total compensation of both the fiscal officer 567 and any deputy fiscal officer shall not exceed the sums fixed by 568 section 507.09 of the Revised Code in any one year. 569

sec. 507.12. (A) To enhance the background and working 570 knowledge of township fiscal officers in government accounting, 571 budgeting and financing, financial report preparation, and the 572 rules adopted by the auditor of state, the auditor of state shall 573 conduct education programs and continuing education courses for 574 individuals elected or appointed for the first time to the office 575 of township fiscal officer, and shall conduct continuing education 576 courses for individuals who continue to hold the office in a 577 subsequent term. The Ohio township association also may conduct 578 such initial education programs and continuing education courses 579 if approved by the auditor of state. The auditor of state, in 580 conjunction with the Ohio township association, shall determine 581 the manner and content of the initial education programs and 582 continuing education courses. 583

(B) A newly elected or appointed township fiscal officer584shall take and successfully complete at least six hours of initial585education programs before commencing, or during the first year of,586office. A township fiscal officer who participates in a training587

| program held under section 117.44 of the Revised Code may apply | 588 |
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| those hours taken before commencing office to the six hours of | 589 |
| initial education programs required under this division. | 590 |
| (C)(1) In addition to the six hours of initial education | 591 |
| required under division (B) of this section, a newly elected | 592 |
| township fiscal officer shall complete at least a total of | 593 |
| eighteen continuing education hours during the township fiscal | 594 |
| <u>officer's first term of office.</u> | 595 |
| (2) A township fiscal officer who is elected to a subsequent | 596 |
| term of office shall take and successfully complete twelve hours | 597 |
| of continuing education courses in each subsequent term of office. | 598 |
| (3) The auditor of state shall adopt rules specifying the | 599 |
| initial education programs and continuing education courses that | 600 |
| are required for a township fiscal officer who has been appointed | 601 |
| to fill a vacancy. The requirements shall be proportionally | 602 |
| equivalent, based on the time remaining in the vacated office, to | 603 |
| the requirements for a newly elected township fiscal officer. | 604 |
| (4) At least two hours of ethics instruction shall be | 605 |
| included in the continuing education hours required by divisions | 606 |
| (C)(1) and (2) of this section. | 607 |
| (5) A township fiscal officer who participates in a training | 608 |
| program or seminar established under section 109.43 of the Revised | 609 |
| <u>Code may apply the three hours of training to the continuing</u> | 610 |
| education hours required by divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this | 611 |
| section. | 612 |
| (D)(1) A certified public accountant who serves as a township | 613 |
| fiscal officer may apply to the continuing education hours | 614 |
| required by division (C) of this section any hours of continuing | 615 |
| education completed under section 4701.11 of the Revised Code | 616 |
| after being elected or appointed as a township fiscal officer. | 617 |
| (2) A township fiscal officer may apply to the continuing | 618 |

| education hours required by division (C) of this section any hours | 619 |
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| of continuing education completed under section 135.22 of the | 620 |
| Revised Code after being elected or appointed as a township fiscal | 621 |
| officer. | 622 |
| (3) A township fiscal officer who teaches an approved | 623 |
| continuing education course under division (C) of this section is | 624 |
| entitled to credit for the course in the same manner as if the | 625 |
| township fiscal officer had attended the course. | 626 |
| (E) The auditor of state shall adopt rules for verifying the | 627 |
| completion of initial education programs and continuing education | 628 |
| courses required under this section. The auditor of state shall | 629 |
| issue a certificate of completion to each township fiscal officer | 630 |
| who completes the initial education programs and continuing | 631 |
| education courses. The auditor of state shall issue a "failure to | 632 |
| complete" notice to any township fiscal officer who is required to | 633 |
| complete initial education programs and continuing education | 634 |
| courses under this section, but who fails to do so. The notice is | 635 |
| for informational purposes only and does not affect any | 636 |
| individual's ability to hold the office of township fiscal | 637 |
| <u>officer.</u> | 638 |
| (F) Each board of township trustees shall approve a | 639 |
| reasonable amount requested by the township fiscal officer to | 640 |
| cover the costs the township fiscal officer is required to incur | 641 |
| to meet the requirements of this section, including registration | 642 |
| fees, lodging and meal expenses, and travel expenses. | 643 |
| Sec. 507.13. (A)(1) If a township fiscal officer purposely, | 644 |

knowingly, or recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed645by law with respect to the office of township fiscal officer or646purposely, knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly647prohibited by law with respect to that office, four residents of648the township may submit sworn affidavits alleging the violation,649

| the round prescribed by rare of the duartor of state under | 052 |
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| section 117.45 of the Revised Code. A person who makes a false | 653 |
| statement in a sworn affidavit, for purposes of this section, is | 654 |
| guilty of falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code. | 655 |

(2) The auditor of state shall review the sworn affidavits 656 and the evidence. Within ten business days after receiving the 657 sworn affidavits, unless, for good cause, additional time is 658 required, the auditor of state shall determine whether clear and 659 convincing evidence supports the allegations. If the auditor of 660 state finds that no allegation is supported by clear and 661 convincing evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those 662 findings in writing to the township fiscal officer and the persons 663 who initiated the sworn affidavits. If the auditor of state finds 664 by clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is supported 665 by the evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those findings 666 in writing to the attorney general, the township fiscal officer, 667 and the persons who initiated the sworn affidavits. The findings 668 shall include a copy of the sworn affidavits and the evidence 669 submitted under division (A)(1) of this section. 670

(3)(a) The attorney general shall review the auditor of 671 state's findings and the sworn affidavits and evidence. Within ten 672 business days after receiving the sworn affidavits and evidence, 673 unless, for good cause, additional time is required, the attorney 674 general shall determine whether clear and convincing evidence 675 supports the allegations. If the attorney general finds that no 676 allegation is supported by clear and convincing evidence, the 677 attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of 678 state, the township fiscal officer, and the persons who initiated 679 the sworn affidavits, that no complaint for the removal of the 680 township fiscal officer from public office will be filed. 681

| (b) If the attorney general finds by clear and convincing | 682 |
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| evidence that an allegation is supported by the evidence, the | 683 |
| attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of | 684 |
| state, the township fiscal officer, and the persons who initiated | 685 |
| the sworn affidavits of that fact, and shall commence an action | 686 |
| for the removal of the township fiscal officer from public office | 687 |
| under division (B) of this section. | 688 |
| (c) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the | 689 |
| authority of the attorney general to enter into mediation, | 690 |
| settlement, or resolution of any alleged violation before or | 691 |
| following the commencement of an action under this section. | 692 |
| (B)(1) The attorney general has a cause of action for removal | 693 |
| of a township fiscal officer who purposely, knowingly, or | 694 |
| recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with | 695 |
| respect to the office of township fiscal officer or purposely, | 696 |
| knowingly, or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by | 697 |
| law with respect to the office of township fiscal officer. Not | 698 |
| later than forty-five days after sending a notice under division | 699 |
| (A)(3)(b) of this section, the attorney general shall cause an | 700 |
| action to be commenced against the township fiscal officer by | 701 |
| filing a complaint for the removal of the township fiscal officer | 702 |
| from public office. If any money is due, the attorney general | 703 |
| shall join the sureties on the township fiscal officer's bond as | 704 |
| parties. The court of common pleas of the county in which the | 705 |
| township fiscal officer holds office has exclusive original | 706 |
| jurisdiction of the action. The action shall proceed de novo as in | 707 |
| the trial of a civil action. The court is not restricted to the | 708 |
| evidence that was presented to the auditor of state and the | 709 |
| attorney general before the action was filed. The action is | 710 |
| governed by the Rules of Civil Procedure. | 711 |
| Except as otherwise provided in this division, an action for | 712 |

removal from office under this section is stayed during the 713

| pendency of any criminal action concerning a violation of an | 714 |
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| existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other | 715 |
| state or the United States that is substantially equivalent to any | 716 |
| criminal violation in Title 29 of the Revised Code related to | 717 |
| conduct in office if the person charged in the criminal action | 718 |
| committed the violation while serving as a township fiscal officer | 719 |
| and the conduct constituting the violation was related to the | 720 |
| duties of the office of fiscal officer or to the person's actions | 721 |
| as the township fiscal officer. The stay may be lifted upon motion | 722 |
| of the prosecuting attorney in the related criminal action. | 723 |
| (2) Prior to or at the hearing, upon a showing of good cause, | 724 |
| the court may issue an order restraining the township fiscal | 725 |
| officer from entering the township fiscal officer's office and | 726 |
| from conducting the affairs of the office pending the hearing on | 727 |
| the complaint. If such an order is issued, the court may continue | 728 |
| the order until the conclusion of the hearing and any appeals | 729 |
| under this section. | 730 |
| (3) The board of township trustees shall be responsible for | 731 |
| the payment of reasonable attorney's fees for counsel for the | 732 |
| township fiscal officer. If judgment is entered against the | 733 |
| township fiscal officer, the court shall order the township fiscal | 734 |
| officer to reimburse the board for attorney's fees and costs up to | 735 |
| a reasonable amount, as determined by the court. Expenses incurred | 736 |
| by the board in a removal action shall be paid out of the township | 737 |
| general fund. | 738 |
| (C) The judgment of the court is final and conclusive unless | 739 |
| reversed, vacated, or modified on appeal. An appeal may be taken | 740 |
| by any party, and shall proceed as in the case of appeals in civil | 741 |
| actions and in accordance with the Rules of Appellate Procedure. | 742 |
| Upon the filing of a notice of appeal by any party to the | 743 |
| proceedings, the court of appeals shall hear the case as an | 744 |
| | |

| Procedure. The township fiscal officer has the right of review or | 746 |
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| appeal to the supreme court. | 747 |
| (D)(1) If a final judgment for removal from public office is | 748 |
| entered against the township fiscal officer, the office shall be | 749 |
| deemed vacated, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in | 750 |
| section 503.24 of the Revised Code. Except as otherwise provided | 751 |
| by law, an individual removed from public office under this | 752 |
| section is not entitled to hold any public office for four years | 753 |
| following the date of the final judgment, and is not entitled to | 754 |
| hold any public office until any repayment or restitution required | 755 |
| by the court is satisfied. | 756 |
| (2) If the court finds with clear and convincing evidence | 757 |
| that the township fiscal officer purposely, knowingly, or | 758 |
| recklessly failed to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with | 759 |
| respect to the office of township fiscal officer or purposely, | 760 |
| knowingly, or recklessly committed any act expressly prohibited by | 761 |
| law, the court shall issue an order removing the township fiscal | 762 |
| officer from office and any order necessary for the preservation | 763 |
| or restitution of public funds. | 764 |
| (E)(1) A person acts purposely when it is the person's | 765 |
| specific intention to cause a certain result, or when the gist of | 766 |
| the offense is a prohibition against conduct of a certain nature, | 767 |
| regardless of what the person intends to accomplish thereby, it is | 768 |
| the person's specific intention to engage in conduct of that | 769 |
| nature. | 770 |
| (2) A person acts knowingly, regardless of the person's | 771 |
| purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will | 772 |
| probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain | 773 |
| nature. A person has knowledge of circumstances when the person is | 774 |
| aware that such circumstances probably exist. | 775 |
| (3) A person acts recklessly when, with heedless indifference | 776 |

| to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk | 777 |
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| that the person's conduct is likely to cause a certain result or | 778 |
| is likely to be of a certain nature. A person is reckless with | 779 |
| respect to circumstances when, with heedless indifference to the | 780 |
| consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk that | 781 |
| such circumstances are likely to exist. | 782 |
| (F) The proceedings provided for in this section may be used | 783 |
| as an alternative to the removal proceedings prescribed under | 784 |
| sections 3.07 to 3.10 of the Revised Code or other methods of | 785 |
| removal authorized by law. | 786 |
| | |
| Sec. 733.78. (A) As used in this section, "fiscal officer" | 787 |
| <u>means a village fiscal officer, a village clerk-treasurer, a</u> | 788 |
| village clerk, a city auditor, a city treasurer or, in the case of | 789 |
| a municipal corporation having a charter that designates an | 790 |
| officer who, by virtue of the charter, has duties and functions | 791 |
| similar to those of the city or village officers referred to in | 792 |
| this section, the officer so designated by the charter. | 793 |
| (B)(1) If a fiscal officer purposely, knowingly, or | 794 |
| recklessly fails to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with | 795 |
| respect to the office of fiscal officer or purposely, knowingly, | 796 |
| or recklessly commits any act expressly prohibited by law with | 797 |
| respect to the office of fiscal officer, a member of the | 798 |
| legislative authority of the municipal corporation may submit a | 799 |
| sworn affidavit alleging the violation, together with evidence | 800 |
| supporting the allegations, to the auditor of state. The sworn | 801 |
| affidavit and evidence shall be submitted in the format prescribed | 802 |
| by rule of the auditor of state under section 117.45 of the | 803 |
| Revised Code. A person who makes a false statement in a sworn | 804 |
| affidavit, for purposes of this section, is guilty of | 805 |
| falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code. | 806 |
| | |

(2) The auditor of state shall review the sworn affidavit and 807

| the evidence. Within ten business days after receiving the sworn | 808 |
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| affidavit and evidence, unless, for good cause, additional time is | 809 |
| required, the auditor of state shall determine whether clear and | 810 |
| convincing evidence supports the allegations. If the auditor of | 811 |
| state finds that no allegation is supported by clear and | 812 |
| convincing evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those | 813 |
| findings in writing to the fiscal officer and the person who | 814 |
| initiated the sworn affidavit. If the auditor of state finds by | 815 |
| clear and convincing evidence that an allegation is supported by | 816 |
| the evidence, the auditor of state shall submit those findings in | 817 |
| writing to the attorney general, the fiscal officer, and the | 818 |
| person who initiated the sworn affidavit. The findings shall | 819 |
| include a copy of the sworn affidavit and the evidence submitted | 820 |
| under division (B)(1) of this section. | 821 |
| (3)(a) The attorney general shall review the auditor of | 822 |
| state's findings and the sworn affidavit and evidence. Within ten | 823 |
| business days after receiving them, unless, for good cause, | 824 |
| additional time is required, the attorney general shall determine | 825 |
| whether clear and convincing evidence supports the allegations. If | 826 |
| the attorney general finds that no allegation is supported by | 827 |
| clear and convincing evidence, the attorney general, by certified | 828 |
| mail, shall notify the auditor of state, the fiscal officer, and | 829 |
| the person who initiated the sworn affidavit that no complaint for | 830 |
| the removal of the fiscal officer from public office will be | 831 |
| filed. | 832 |
| (b) If the attorney general finds by clear and convincing | 833 |
| evidence that an allegation is supported by the evidence, the | 834 |
| attorney general, by certified mail, shall notify the auditor of | 835 |
| state, the fiscal officer, and the person who initiated the sworn | 836 |
| affidavit of that fact, and shall commence an action for the | 837 |
| removal of the fiscal officer from public office under division | 838 |
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(C) of this section.

| (c) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the | 840 |
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| authority of the attorney general to enter into mediation, | 841 |
| settlement, or resolution of any alleged violation before or | 842 |
| following the commencement of an action under this section. | 843 |

(C)(1) The attorney general has a cause of action for removal 844 of a fiscal officer who purposely, knowingly, or recklessly fails 845 to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the 846 office of fiscal officer or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly 847 commits any act expressly prohibited by law with respect to the 848 office of fiscal officer. Not later than forty-five days after 849 sending a notice under division (B)(3)(b) of this section, the 850 attorney general shall cause an action to be commenced against the 851 fiscal officer by filing a complaint for the removal of the fiscal 852 officer from public office. If any money is due, the attorney 853 general shall join the sureties on the fiscal officer's bond as 854 parties. The court of common pleas of the county in which the 855 fiscal officer holds office has exclusive original jurisdiction of 856 the action. The action shall proceed de novo as in the trial of a 857 civil action. The court is not restricted to the evidence that was 858 presented to the auditor of state and the attorney general before 859 the action was filed. The action is governed by the Rules of Civil 860 Procedure. 861

Except as otherwise provided in this division, an action for 862 removal from office under this section is stayed during the 863 pendency of any criminal action concerning a violation of an 864 existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other 865 state or the United States that is substantially equivalent to any 866 criminal violation in Title 29 of the Revised Code related to 867 conduct in office if the person charged in the criminal action 868 committed the violation while serving as a fiscal officer and the 869 conduct constituting the violation was related to the duties of 870 the office of fiscal officer or to the person's actions as the 871

| fiscal officer. The stay may be lifted upon motion of the | 872 |
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| prosecuting attorney in the related criminal action. | 873 |
| (2) Prior to or at the hearing, upon a showing of good cause, | 874 |
| the court may issue an order restraining the fiscal officer from | 875 |
| entering the fiscal officer's office and from conducting the | 876 |
| affairs of the office pending the hearing on the complaint. If | 877 |
| such an order is issued, the court may continue the order until | 878 |
| the conclusion of the hearing and any appeals under this section. | 879 |
| (3) The legislative authority of the municipal corporation | 880 |
| shall be responsible for the payment of reasonable attorney's fees | 881 |
| for counsel for the fiscal officer. If judgment is entered against | 882 |
| the fiscal officer, the court shall order the fiscal officer to | 883 |
| reimburse the legislative authority for attorney's fees and costs | 884 |
| up to a reasonable amount, as determined by the court. Expenses | 885 |
| incurred by the legislative authority in a removal action shall be | 886 |
| paid out of the general fund of the municipal corporation. | 887 |
| (D)(1) The judgment of the court is final and conclusive | 888 |
| unless reversed, vacated, or modified on appeal. An appeal may be | 889 |
| taken by any party, and shall proceed as in the case of appeals in | 890 |
| civil actions and in accordance with the Rules of Appellate | 891 |
| Procedure. Upon the filing of a notice of appeal by any party to | 892 |
| the proceedings, the court of appeals shall hear the case as an | 893 |
| expedited appeal under Rule 11.2 of the Rules of Appellate | 894 |
| Procedure. The fiscal officer has the right of review or appeal to | 895 |
| the supreme court. | 896 |
| (2) If the court finds with clear and convincing oridones | 007 |

(2) If the court finds with clear and convincing evidence897that the fiscal officer purposely, knowingly, or recklessly failed898to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the899office of fiscal officer or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly900committed any act expressly prohibited by law, the court shall901issue an order removing the fiscal officer from office and any902order necessary for the preservation or restitution of public903

| (E) If a final judgment for removal from public office is | 905 |
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| entered against the fiscal officer, the office shall be deemed | 906 |
| vacated, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in section | 907 |
| 733.31 of the Revised Code. Except as otherwise provided by law, | 908 |
| an individual removed from public office under this section is not | 909 |
| entitled to hold any public office for four years following the | 910 |
| date of the final judgment, and is not entitled to hold any public | 911 |
| office until any repayment or restitution required by the court is | 912 |
| satisfied. | 913 |
| (F) If a municipal corporation's charter establishes a | 914 |
| procedure for the removal of officers from office that conflicts | 915 |
| with the removal procedure established by this section, the | 916 |
| procedure for the removal of officers in the charter prevails. | 917 |
| (G)(1) A person acts purposely when it is the person's | 918 |
| specific intention to cause a certain result, or when the gist of | 919 |
| the offense is a prohibition against conduct of a certain nature, | 920 |
| regardless of what the person intends to accomplish thereby, it is | 921 |
| the person's specific intention to engage in conduct of that | 922 |
| nature. | 923 |
| (2) A person acts knowingly, regardless of the person's | 924 |
| purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will | 925 |
| probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain | 926 |
| nature. A person has knowledge of circumstances when the person is | 927 |
| aware that such circumstances probably exist. | 928 |
| (3) A person acts recklessly when, with heedless indifference | 929 |
| to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk | 930 |
| that the person's conduct is likely to cause a certain result or | 931 |
| is likely to be of a certain nature. A person is reckless with | 932 |
| respect to circumstances when, with heedless indifference to the | 933 |
| consequences, the person perversely disregards a known risk that | 934 |

| such circumstances are likely to exist. | 935 |
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| (H) The proceedings provided for in this section may be used | 936 |
| as an alternative to the removal proceedings prescribed under | 937 |
| sections 3.07 to 3.10 of the Revised Code or other methods of | 938 |
| removal authorized by law. | 939 |
| Sec. 733.81. (A) As used in this section, "fiscal officer" | 940 |
| means the city auditor, city treasurer, village fiscal officer, | 941 |
| village clerk-treasurer, village clerk, and, in the case of a | 942 |
| | 942 |
| municipal corporation having a charter that designates an officer | |
| who, by virtue of the charter, has duties and functions similar to | 944 |
| those of the city or village officers referred to in this section, | 945 |
| the officer so designated by the charter. | 946 |
| (B) To enhance the background and working knowledge of fiscal | 947 |
| officers in government accounting, budgeting and financing, | 948 |
| financial report preparation, and the rules adopted by the auditor | 949 |
| of state, the auditor of state shall conduct education programs | 950 |
| and continuing education courses for individuals elected or | 951 |
| appointed for the first time to the office of fiscal officer, and | 952 |
| shall conduct continuing education courses for individuals who | 953 |
| continue to hold the office in a subsequent term. The Ohio | 954 |
| municipal league also may conduct such initial education programs | 955 |
| and continuing education courses if approved by the auditor of | 956 |
| state. The auditor of state, in conjunction with the Ohio | 957 |
| municipal league, shall determine the manner and content of the | 958 |
| initial education programs and continuing education courses. | 959 |
| (C) A newly elected or appointed fiscal officer shall take | 960 |
| and successfully complete at least six hours of initial education | 961 |
| programs before commencing, or during the first year of, office. A | 962 |

fiscal officer who participates in a training program held under 963 section 117.44 of the Revised Code may apply those hours taken 964 before commencing office to the six hours of initial education 965 programs required under this division. 966 (D)(1) In addition to the six hours of initial education 967 required under division (B) of this section, a newly elected 968 fiscal officer shall complete at least a total of eighteen 969 continuing education hours during the fiscal officer's first term 970 of office. 971 (2) A fiscal officer who is elected to a subsequent term of 972 office shall take and successfully complete twelve hours of 973 continuing education courses in each subsequent term of office. 974 (3) The auditor of state shall adopt rules specifying the 975 initial education programs and continuing education courses that 976 are required for a fiscal officer who has been appointed to fill a 977 vacancy. The requirements shall be proportionally equivalent, 978 based on the time remaining in the vacated office, to the 979 requirements for a newly elected fiscal officer. 980 (4) At least two hours of ethics instruction shall be 981 included in the continuing education hours required by divisions 982 (D)(1) and (2) of this section. 983 (5) A township fiscal officer who participates in a training 984 program or seminar established under section 109.43 of the Revised 985 Code may apply the three hours of training to the continuing 986 education hours required by divisions (D)(1) and (2) of this 987 section. 988 (E)(1) A certified public accountant who serves as a fiscal 989 officer may apply to the continuing education hours required by 990 division (D) of this section any hours of continuing education 991 completed under section 4701.11 of the Revised Code after being 992 elected or appointed as a fiscal officer. 993 (2) A fiscal officer may apply to the continuing education 994 hours required by division (D) of this section any hours of 995

continuing education completed under section 135.22 of the Revised

| Code after being elected or appointed as a fiscal officer. | 997 |
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| (3) A fiscal officer who teaches an approved continuing | 998 |
| education course under division (D) of this section is entitled to | 999 |
| credit for the course in the same manner as if the fiscal officer | 1000 |
| had attended the course. | 1001 |
| (F) The auditor of state shall adopt rules for verifying the | 1002 |
| completion of initial education programs and continuing education | 1003 |
| courses required under this section for each category of fiscal | 1004 |
| officer. The auditor of state shall issue a certificate of | 1005 |
| completion to each fiscal officer who completes the initial | 1006 |
| education programs and continuing education courses. The auditor | 1007 |
| of state shall issue a "failure to complete" notice to any fiscal | 1008 |
| officer who is required to complete initial education programs and | 1009 |
| continuing education courses under this section, but who fails to | 1010 |
| do so. The notice is for informational purposes only and does not | 1011 |
| affect any individual's ability to hold the office to which the | 1012 |
| individual was elected or appointed. | 1013 |
| (G) The legislative authority of a municipal corporation | 1014 |
| shall approve a reasonable amount requested by the fiscal officer | 1015 |
| to cover the costs the fiscal officer is required to incur to meet | 1016 |
| the requirements of this section, including registration fees, | 1017 |
| lodging and meal expenses, and travel expenses. | 1018 |
| | |
| Sec. 2921.13. (A) No person shall knowingly make a false | 1019 |
| statement, or knowingly swear or affirm the truth of a false | 1020 |
| statement previously made, when any of the following applies: | 1021 |
| (1) The statement is made in any official proceeding. | 1022 |
| (2) The statement is made with purpose to incriminate | 1023 |
| another. | 1024 |

(3) The statement is made with purpose to mislead a publicofficial in performing the public official's official function.1025

(4) The statement is made with purpose to secure the payment 1027 of unemployment compensation; Ohio works first; prevention, 1028 retention, and contingency benefits and services; disability 1029 financial assistance; retirement benefits or health care coverage 1030 from a state retirement system; economic development assistance, 1031 as defined in section 9.66 of the Revised Code; or other benefits 1032 administered by a governmental agency or paid out of a public 1033 treasury. 1034

(5) The statement is made with purpose to secure the issuance
by a governmental agency of a license, permit, authorization,
certificate, registration, release, or provider agreement.
1037

(6) The statement is sworn or affirmed before a notary public1038or another person empowered to administer oaths.1039

(7) The statement is in writing on or in connection with a 1040report or return that is required or authorized by law. 1041

(8) The statement is in writing and is made with purpose to 1042 induce another to extend credit to or employ the offender, to 1043 confer any degree, diploma, certificate of attainment, award of 1044 excellence, or honor on the offender, or to extend to or bestow 1045 upon the offender any other valuable benefit or distinction, when 1046 the person to whom the statement is directed relies upon it to 1047 that person's detriment.

(9) The statement is made with purpose to commit or 1049facilitate the commission of a theft offense. 1050

(10) The statement is knowingly made to a probate court in 1051 connection with any action, proceeding, or other matter within its 1052 jurisdiction, either orally or in a written document, including, 1053 but not limited to, an application, petition, complaint, or other 1054 pleading, or an inventory, account, or report. 1055

(11) The statement is made on an account, form, record,stamp, label, or other writing that is required by law.1057

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(12) The statement is made in connection with the purchase of 1058 a firearm, as defined in section 2923.11 of the Revised Code, and 1059 in conjunction with the furnishing to the seller of the firearm of 1060 a fictitious or altered driver's or commercial driver's license or 1061 permit, a fictitious or altered identification card, or any other 1062 document that contains false information about the purchaser's 1063 identity.

(13) The statement is made in a document or instrument of 1065 writing that purports to be a judgment, lien, or claim of 1066 indebtedness and is filed or recorded with the secretary of state, 1067 a county recorder, or the clerk of a court of record. 1068

(14) The statement is made in an application filed with a 1069 county sheriff pursuant to section 2923.125 of the Revised Code in 1070 order to obtain or renew a concealed handgun license or is made in 1071 an affidavit submitted to a county sheriff to obtain a concealed 1072 handgun license on a temporary emergency basis under section 1073 2923.1213 of the Revised Code. 1074

(15) The statement is required under section 5743.71 of the 1075
Revised Code in connection with the person's purchase of 1076
cigarettes or tobacco products in a delivery sale. 1077

(B) No person, in connection with the purchase of a firearm, 1078
as defined in section 2923.11 of the Revised Code, shall knowingly 1079
furnish to the seller of the firearm a fictitious or altered 1080
driver's or commercial driver's license or permit, a fictitious or 1081
altered identification card, or any other document that contains 1082
false information about the purchaser's identity. 1083

(C) No person, in an attempt to obtain a concealed handgun
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license under section 2923.125 of the Revised Code, shall
knowingly present to a sheriff a fictitious or altered document
that purports to be certification of the person's competence in
handling a handgun as described in division (B)(3) of that

section.

(D) It is no defense to a charge under division (A)(6) of 1090
 this section that the oath or affirmation was administered or 1091
 taken in an irregular manner. 1092

(E) If contradictory statements relating to the same fact are 1093
made by the offender within the period of the statute of 1094
limitations for falsification, it is not necessary for the 1095
prosecution to prove which statement was false but only that one 1096
or the other was false. 1097

(F)(1) Whoever violates division (A)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), 1098 (6), (7), (8), (10), (11), (13), or (15) of this section is guilty 1099 of falsification τ . Except as otherwise provided in this division, 1100 falsification is a misdemeanor of the first degree. 1101

(2) Whoever violates division (A)(9) of this section is 1102 guilty of falsification in a theft offense. Except as otherwise 1103 provided in this division, falsification in a theft offense is a 1104 misdemeanor of the first degree. If the value of the property or 1105 services stolen is one thousand dollars or more and is less than 1106 seven thousand five hundred dollars, falsification in a theft 1107 offense is a felony of the fifth degree. If the value of the 1108 property or services stolen is seven thousand five hundred dollars 1109 or more and is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars, 1110 falsification in a theft offense is a felony of the fourth degree. 1111 If the value of the property or services stolen is one hundred 1112 fifty thousand dollars or more, falsification in a theft offense 1113 is a felony of the third degree. 1114

(3) Whoever violates division (A)(12) or (B) of this section 1115is guilty of falsification to purchase a firearm, a felony of the 1116fifth degree. 1117

(4) Whoever violates division (A)(14) or (C) of this section 1118is guilty of falsification to obtain a concealed handgun license, 1119

a felony of the fourth degree.

| (5) Whoever violates division (A) of this section in removal | 1121 |
|--|------|
| proceedings under section 319.26, 321.37, 507.13, or 733.78 of the | 1122 |
| Revised Code is guilty of falsification regarding a removal | 1123 |
| proceeding, a felony of the third degree. | 1124 |

(G) A person who violates this section is liable in a civil 1125 action to any person harmed by the violation for injury, death, or 1126 loss to person or property incurred as a result of the commission 1127 of the offense and for reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, 1128 and other expenses incurred as a result of prosecuting the civil 1129 action commenced under this division. A civil action under this 1130 division is not the exclusive remedy of a person who incurs 1131 injury, death, or loss to person or property as a result of a 1132 violation of this section. 1133

Sec. 2921.44. (A) No law enforcement officer shall1134negligently do any of the following:1135

(1) Fail to serve a lawful warrant without delay;

(2) Fail to prevent or halt the commission of an offense or 1137
to apprehend an offender, when it is in the law enforcement 1138
officer's power to do so alone or with available assistance. 1139

(B) No law enforcement, ministerial, or judicial officershall negligently fail to perform a lawful duty in a criminal caseor proceeding.

(C) No officer, having charge of a detention facility, shall1143negligently do any of the following:1144

(1) Allow the detention facility to become littered or 1145unsanitary; 1146

(2) Fail to provide persons confined in the detentionfacility with adequate food, clothing, bedding, shelter, andmedical attention;

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(3) Fail to control an unruly prisoner, or to prevent1150intimidation of or physical harm to a prisoner by another;1151

(4) Allow a prisoner to escape;

(5) Fail to observe any lawful and reasonable regulation for 1153the management of the detention facility. 1154

(D) No public official of the state shall recklessly create a 1155
deficiency, incur a liability, or expend a greater sum than is 1156
appropriated by the general assembly for the use in any one year 1157
of the department, agency, or institution of the state with which 1158
the public official is connected. 1159

(E) No public servant shall recklessly fail to perform a duty 1160
expressly imposed by law with respect to the public servant's 1161
office, or recklessly do any act expressly forbidden by law with 1162
respect to the public servant's office. 1163

(F) Whoever violates this section is guilty of dereliction of 1164duty, a misdemeanor of the second degree. 1165

(G) Except as otherwise provided by law, a public servant who 1166 is a county treasurer; county auditor; township fiscal officer; 1167 city auditor; city treasurer; village fiscal officer; village 1168 clerk-treasurer; village clerk; in the case of a municipal 1169 corporation having a charter that designates an officer who, by 1170 virtue of the charter, has duties and functions similar to those 1171 of the city or village officers referred to in this section, the 1172 officer so designated by the charter school district treasurer; 1173 fiscal officer of a community school established under Chapter 1174 3314. of the Revised Code; treasurer of a science, technology, 1175 engineering, and mathematics school established under Chapter 1176 3326. of the Revised Code; or fiscal officer of a 1177 college-preparatory boarding school established under Chapter 1178 3328. of the Revised Code and is convicted of or pleads quilty to 1179 dereliction of duty is disqualified from holding any public 1180

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| years following the date of conviction or of entry of the plea, | 1182 |
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| and is not entitled to hold any public office until any repayment | 1183 |
| or restitution required by the court is satisfied. | 1184 |
| (H) As used in this section, "public servant" includes an <u>the</u> | 1185 |
| <u>following:</u> | 1186 |
| (1) An officer or employee of a contractor as defined in | 1187 |
| section 9.08 of the Revised Code <u>;</u> | 1188 |
| (2) A fiscal officer employed by the operator of a community | 1189 |
| school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code or by | 1190 |
| the operator of a college-preparatory boarding school established | 1191 |
| under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code. | 1192 |
| Sec. 3313.30. (A) If the auditor of state or a public | 1193 |
| accountant, under section 117.41 of the Revised Code, declares a | 1194 |
| school district to be unauditable, the auditor of state shall | 1195 |
| provide written notification of that declaration to the district | 1196 |
| and the department of education. The auditor of state also shall | 1197 |
| post the notification on the auditor of state's web site. | 1198 |
| (B) If the district's current treasurer held that position | 1199 |
| during the period for which the district is unauditable, upon | 1200 |
| receipt of the notification under division (A) of this section, | 1201 |
| the district board of education may suspend the treasurer until | 1202 |
| the auditor of state or a public accountant has completed an audit | 1203 |
| of the district. Suspension of the treasurer may be with or | 1204 |
| without pay, as determined by the district board based on the | 1205 |
| circumstances that prompted the auditor of state's declaration. | 1206 |
| The district board shall appoint a person to assume the duties of | 1207 |
| the treasurer during the period of the suspension. If the | 1208 |
| appointee is not licensed as a treasurer under section 3301.074 of | 1209 |
| the Revised Code, the appointee shall be approved by the | 1210 |
| superintendent of public instruction before assuming the duties of | 1211 |

office, employment, or position of trust in this state for four

| the treasurer. The state board of education may take action under | 1212 |
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| section 3319.31 of the Revised Code to suspend, revoke, or limit | 1213 |
| the license of a treasurer who has been suspended under this | 1214 |
| division. | 1215 |
| (C) Not later than forty-five days after receiving the | 1216 |
| notification under division (A) of this section, the district | 1217 |
| board shall provide a written response to the auditor of state. | 1218 |
| The response shall include the following: | 1219 |
| (1) An overview of the process the district board will use to | 1220 |
| review and understand the circumstances that led to the district | 1221 |
| becoming unauditable; | 1222 |
| (2) A plan for providing the auditor of state with the | 1223 |
| documentation necessary to complete an audit of the district and | 1224 |
| for ensuring that all financial documents are available in the | 1225 |
| <u>future;</u> | 1226 |
| (3) The actions the district board will take to ensure that | 1227 |
| | |
| the plan described in division (C)(2) of this section is | 1228 |
| the plan described in division (C)(2) of this section is implemented. | 1228 1229 |
| | - |
| implemented. | 1229 |
| implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts | 1229 1230 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the district and the department of the</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the district and the department of the district's failure. If the auditor of state or a public accountant</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the district and the department of the district's failure. If the auditor of state or a public accountant subsequently is able to complete a financial audit of the</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 1237 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the district and the department of the district's failure. If the auditor of state or a public accountant subsequently is able to complete a financial audit of the district, the auditor of state shall notify the district and the</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 1237 1238 |
| <pre>implemented. (D) If the school district fails to make reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the district and the department of the district's failure. If the auditor of state or a public accountant subsequently is able to complete a financial audit of the district, the auditor of state shall notify the district and the department that the audit has been completed.</pre> | 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 1237 1238 1239 |

| section that the district has failed to make reasonable efforts | 1243 |
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| and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or | 1244 |
| reports into an auditable condition, the department shall | 1245 |
| immediately cease all payments to the district under Chapter 3317. | 1246 |
| of the Revised Code and any other provision of law. Upon | 1247 |
| subsequent notification from the auditor of state under that | 1248 |
| division that the auditor of state or a public accountant was able | 1249 |
| to complete a financial audit of the district, the department | 1250 |
| shall release all funds withheld from the district under this | 1251 |
| section. | 1252 |

sec. 3314.023. In order to provide monitoring and technical 1253 assistance, a representative of the sponsor of a community school 1254 shall meet with the governing authority or treasurer fiscal 1255 officer of the school and shall review the financial and 1256 enrollment records of the school at least once every month. Not 1257 later than ten days after each review, the sponsor shall provide 1258 the governing authority and fiscal officer with a written report 1259 regarding the review. 1260

Sec. 3314.50. No community school shall, on or after the 1261 effective date of this section, open for operation in any school 1262 year unless the governing authority of the school has posted a 1263 surety bond in the amount of fifty thousand dollars with the 1264 auditor of state. In lieu of a surety bond, a community school 1265 governing authority may deposit with the auditor of state cash in 1266 the amount of fifty thousand dollars as a guarantee of payment. 1267 The bond or cash quarantee shall be used, in the event the school 1268 closes, to pay the auditor of state any moneys owed by the school 1269 for the costs of audits conducted by the auditor of state or a 1270 public accountant under Chapter 117. of the Revised Code. 1271

Immediately upon the filing of a surety bond or the deposit1272of cash, the auditor of state shall deliver the bond or cash to1273

| <u>the treasurer of state, who shall hold it in trust for the</u> | 1274 |
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| purposes prescribed in this section. The treasurer of state shall | 1275 |
| be responsible for the safekeeping of all surety bonds filed or | 1276 |
| cash deposited under this section. The auditor of state shall | 1277 |
| notify the department of education when the school's governing | 1278 |
| authority has filed the bond or deposited the cash guarantee. | 1279 |
| When the auditor of state finds that a community school has | 1280 |
| closed and cannot pay for the costs of audits, the auditor of | 1281 |
| state shall declare the surety bond or cash deposit forfeited. The | 1282 |
| auditor of state shall certify the amount of forfeiture to the | 1283 |
| treasurer of state, who shall pay money from the named surety or | 1284 |
| from the school's cash deposit as needed to reimburse the auditor | 1285 |
| of state or public accountant for costs incurred in conducting | 1286 |
| audits of the school. | 1287 |

Sec. 267.50.70 <u>3314.51</u>. UNAUDITABLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL (A) 1288

(A) If the Auditor auditor of State state or a public 1289 accountant, pursuant to under section 117.41 of the Revised Code, 1290 declares a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the 1291 Revised Code to be unauditable, the Auditor auditor of State state 1292 shall provide written notification of that declaration to the 1293 school, the school's sponsor, and the Department department of 1294 Education education. The Auditor auditor of State state also shall 1295 post the notification on the Auditor auditor of State's state's 1296 web site. 1297

(B) If the community school's current fiscal officer held
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that position during the period for which the school is
unauditable, upon receipt of the notification under division (A)
of this section, the governing authority of the school may suspend
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the fiscal officer until the auditor of state or a public
accountant has completed an audit of the school, except that if
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the school has an operator and the operator employs the fiscal

| officer, the operator may suspend the fiscal officer for that | 1305 |
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| period. Suspension of the fiscal officer may be with or without | 1306 |
| pay, as determined by the entity imposing the suspension based on | 1307 |
| the circumstances that prompted the auditor of state's | 1308 |
| declaration. The entity imposing the suspension shall appoint a | 1309 |
| person to assume the duties of the fiscal officer during the | 1310 |
| period of the suspension. If the appointee is not licensed as a | 1311 |
| treasurer under section 3301.074 of the Revised Code, the | 1312 |
| appointee shall be approved by the superintendent of public | 1313 |
| instruction before assuming the duties of the fiscal officer. The | 1314 |
| state board of education may take action under section 3319.31 of | 1315 |
| the Revised Code to suspend, revoke, or limit the license of a | 1316 |
| fiscal officer who has been suspended under this division. | 1317 |

(C) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Chapter 1318 3314. of the Revised Code this chapter or in any other provision 1319 of law, a the sponsor of a the community school that is notified 1320 by the Auditor of State under division (A) of this section that a 1321 community school it sponsors is unauditable shall not enter into 1322 contracts with any additional community schools under section 1323 3314.03 of the Revised Code until between ninety days after the 1324 date of the declaration under division (A) of this section and the 1325 <u>date</u> the Auditor <u>auditor</u> of State <u>state</u> or a public accountant has 1326 completed a financial audit of that the school. 1327

(C)(D)Not later than forty-five days after receiving the1328notification by the Auditor of State under division (A) of this1329section that a community school is unauditable, the sponsor of the1330community school shall provide a written response to the Auditor1331auditor of State state. The sponsor shall provide a copy of the1332response to the community school. The response shall include the1333following:1334

(1) An overview of the process the sponsor will use to review1335and understand the circumstances that led to the community school1336

becoming unauditable;

(2) A plan for providing the Auditor auditor of State state
with the documentation necessary to complete an audit of the
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community school and for ensuring that all financial documents are
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available in the future;

(3) The actions the sponsor will take to ensure that the plan 1342 described in division $\frac{(C)(D)}{(2)}$ of this section is implemented. 1343

 (\mathbf{D}) (E) If a the community school fails to make reasonable 1344 efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, 1345 files, or reports into an auditable condition within ninety days 1346 after being declared unauditable, the Auditor auditor of State 1347 state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections 1348 117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the Department 1349 school's sponsor and the department of the school's failure. If 1350 the Auditor auditor of State state or a public accountant 1351 subsequently is able to complete a financial audit of the school, 1352 the Auditor auditor of State state shall notify the Department 1353 school's sponsor and the department that the audit has been 1354 completed. 1355

(E)(F) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 1356 Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code this chapter or in any other 1357 provision of law, upon notification by the Auditor auditor of 1358 State state under division (D)(E) of this section that a the 1359 community school has failed to make reasonable efforts and 1360 continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or 1361 reports into an auditable condition following a declaration that 1362 the school is unauditable, the Department department shall 1363 immediately cease all payments to the school under Chapter 3314. 1364 of the Revised Code this chapter and any other provision of law. 1365 Upon subsequent notification from the Auditor auditor of State 1366 state under that division that the Auditor auditor of State state 1367 or a public accountant was able to complete a financial audit of 1368

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the community school, the Department <u>department</u> shall release all 1369 funds withheld from the school under this section. 1370

Sec. 3326.211. (A) If the auditor of state or a public1371accountant, pursuant to section 117.41 of the Revised Code,1372declares a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics1373school to be unauditable, the auditor of state shall provide1374written notification of that declaration to the school and the1375department of education. The auditor of state also shall post the1376notification on the auditor of state's web site.1377

(B) If the STEM school's current treasurer held that position 1378 during the period for which the school is unauditable, upon 1379 receipt of the notification under division (A) of this section, 1380 the governing body of the school may suspend the treasurer until 1381 the auditor of state or a public accountant has completed an audit 1382 of the school. Suspension of the treasurer may be with or without 1383 pay, as determined by the governing body based on the 1384 circumstances that prompted the auditor of state's declaration. 1385 The governing body shall appoint a person to assume the duties of 1386 the treasurer during the period of the suspension. If the 1387 appointee is not licensed as a treasurer under section 3301.074 of 1388 the Revised Code, the appointee shall be approved by the 1389 superintendent of public instruction before assuming the duties of 1390 the treasurer. The state board of education may take action under 1391 section 3319.31 of the Revised Code to suspend, revoke, or limit 1392 the license of a treasurer who has been suspended under this 1393 division. 1394

(C) Not later than forty-five days after receiving the1395notification under division (A) of this section, the governing1396body of the STEM school shall provide a written response to the1397auditor of state. The response shall include the following:1398

(1) An overview of the process the governing body will use to 1399

| review and understand the circumstances that led to the school | 1400 |
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| becoming unauditable; | 1401 |
| (2) A plan for providing the auditor of state with the | 1402 |
| documentation necessary to complete an audit of the school and for | 1403 |
| ensuring that all financial documents are available in the future; | 1404 |
| (3) The actions the governing body will take to ensure that | 1405 |
| the plan described in division (C)(2) of this section is | 1406 |
| implemented. | 1407 |
| (D) If the STEM school fails to make reasonable efforts and | 1408 |
| continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or | 1409 |
| reports into an auditable condition within ninety days after being | 1410 |
| declared unauditable, the auditor of state, in addition to | 1411 |
| requesting legal action under sections 117.41 and 117.42 of the | 1412 |
| Revised Code, shall notify the school and the department of the | 1413 |
| school's failure. If the auditor of state or a public accountant | 1414 |
| subsequently is able to complete a financial audit of the school, | 1415 |
| the auditor of state shall notify the school and the department | 1416 |
| that the audit has been completed. | 1417 |
| (E) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this | 1418 |
| chapter or in any other provision of law, upon notification by the | 1419 |
| auditor of state under division (D) of this section that the STEM | 1420 |
| school has failed to make reasonable efforts and continuing | 1421 |
| progress to bring its accounts, records, files, or reports into an | 1422 |
| auditable condition, the department shall immediately cease all | 1423 |
| payments to the school under this chapter and any other provision | 1424 |
| of law. Upon subsequent notification from the auditor of state | 1425 |
| under that division that the auditor of state or a public | 1426 |
| accountant was able to complete a financial audit of the school, | 1427 |
| the department shall release all funds withheld from the school | 1428 |
| under this section. | 1429 |

established under this chapter shall have a designated fiscal 1431 officer. The auditor of state may require by rule that the fiscal 1432 officer of any college-preparatory boarding school, before 1433 entering upon duties as fiscal officer, execute a bond in an 1434 amount and with surety to be approved by the school's board of 1435 trustees, payable to the state, conditioned for the faithful 1436 performance of all the official duties required of the fiscal 1437 officer. Any such bond shall be deposited with the school's board 1438 of trustees, and a copy of the bond shall be certified by the 1439 board and filed with the county auditor. 1440 (B) Before assuming the duties of fiscal officer, the fiscal 1441 officer designated under this section shall be licensed as a 1442 treasurer under section 3301.074 of the Revised Code. No 1443 college-preparatory boarding school shall allow a person to serve 1444 as fiscal officer who is not licensed as required by this 1445

division.

Sec. 3328.37. (A) If the auditor of state or a public1447accountant, under section 117.41 of the Revised Code, declares a1448college-preparatory boarding school established under this chapter1449to be unauditable, the auditor of state shall provide written1450notification of that declaration to the school and the department1451of education. The auditor of state also shall post the1452notification on the auditor of state's web site.1453

(B) If the college-preparatory boarding school's current 1454 fiscal officer held that position during the period for which the 1455 school is unauditable, upon receipt of the notification under 1456 division (A) of this section, the board of trustees of the school 1457 may suspend the fiscal officer until the auditor of state or a 1458 public accountant has completed an audit of the school, except 1459 that if the fiscal officer is employed by the school's operator, 1460 the operator shall suspend the fiscal officer for that period. 1461

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| Suspension of the fiscal officer may be with or without pay, as | 1462 |
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| determined by the entity imposing the suspension based on the | 1463 |
| circumstances that prompted the auditor of state's declaration. | 1464 |
| The entity imposing the suspension shall appoint a person to | 1465 |
| assume the duties of the fiscal officer during the period of the | 1466 |
| suspension. If the appointee is not licensed as a treasurer under | 1467 |
| section 3301.074 of the Revised Code, the appointee shall be | 1468 |
| approved by the superintendent of public instruction before | 1469 |
| assuming the duties of the fiscal officer. The state board of | 1470 |
| education may take action under section 3319.31 of the Revised | 1471 |
| Code to suspend, revoke, or limit the license of a fiscal officer | 1472 |
| who has been suspended under this division. | 1473 |
| (C) Not later than forty-five days after receiving the | 1474 |
| notification under division (A) of this section, the board of | 1475 |
| trustees of the college-preparatory boarding school shall provide | 1476 |
| a written response to the auditor of state. The response shall | 1477 |
| include the following: | 1478 |
| (1) An overview of the process the board will use to review | 1479 |
| and understand the circumstances that led to the school becoming | 1480 |
| unauditable; | 1481 |
| (2) A plan for providing the auditor of state with the | 1482 |
| documentation necessary to complete an audit of the school and for | 1483 |
| ensuring that all financial documents are available in the future; | 1484 |
| (3) The actions the board will take to ensure that the plan | 1485 |
| described in division (C)(2) of this section is implemented. | 1486 |
| described in division (c)(2) of this section is impremented. | 1400 |
| (D) If the college-preparatory boarding school fails to make | 1487 |
| reasonable efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, | 1488 |
| records, files, or reports into an auditable condition within | 1489 |
| ninety days after being declared unauditable, the auditor of | 1490 |
| state, in addition to requesting legal action under sections | 1491 |
| 117 41 and 117 42 of the Pewised Code shall notify the school and | 1492 |

117.41 and 117.42 of the Revised Code, shall notify the school and 1492

| the department of the school's failure. If the auditor of state or | 1493 |
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| a public accountant subsequently is able to complete a financial | 1494 |
| audit of the school, the auditor of state shall notify the school | 1495 |
| and the department that the audit has been completed. | 1496 |
| (E) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this | 1497 |
| chapter or in any other provision of law, upon notification by the | 1498 |
| auditor of state under division (D) of this section that the | 1499 |
| college-preparatory boarding school has failed to make reasonable | 1500 |
| efforts and continuing progress to bring its accounts, records, | 1501 |
| files, or reports into an auditable condition, the department | 1502 |
| shall immediately cease all payments to the school under this | 1503 |
| chapter and any other provision of law. Upon subsequent | 1504 |
| notification from the auditor of state under that division that | 1505 |
| the auditor of state or a public accountant was able to complete a | 1506 |
| financial audit of the school, the department shall release all | 1507 |
| funds withheld from the school under this section. | 1508 |
| | |
| Section 2. That existing sections 305.03, 319.04, 319.26, | 1509 |
| 321.37, 321.46, 507.02, 2921.13, 2921.44, and 3314.023 and | 1510 |
| sections 319.25 and 321.38 of the Revised Code are hereby | 1511 |
| repealed. | 1512 |
| That existing Section 267.50.70 of Am. Sub. H.B. 153 of the | 1513 |
| 129th General Assembly is hereby repealed. | 1514 |
| Section 3. Section 2921.13 of the Revised Code is presented | 1515 |
| in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both Am. | 1516 |
| Sub. H.B. 495 and Sub. S.B. 343 of the 129th General Assembly. The | 1517 |
| General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of | 1518 |
| section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be | 1519 |
| harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds | |
| narmonized if reasonably capable of simulations operation, rinds | 1520 |
| that the composite is the resulting version of the section in | 1520 1521 |
| that the composite is the resulting version of the section in | |
| | 1521 |