

State of Minnesota
Legislative Audit Commission
Possible Evaluation Topics for 2025
March 19, 2025

The Legislative Audit Commission Evaluation Subcommittee met on March 14, 2025 to narrow a list of proposed program evaluation topics to 18 semifinalists, listed below.

Follow-Up Evaluations	
1. Fiscal Notes <i>OLA addressed these questions in a 2012 evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have fiscal notes provided legislators with timely and credible information? • To what extent have fiscal notes been useful in the state’s budget process? • How does Minnesota’s approach to fiscal notes compare to other states’ approaches?
2. Nonemergency Medical Transportation <i>OLA addressed these questions in a 2011 evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have Medical Assistance recipients received appropriate nonemergency medical transportation? • To what extent are transport level certifications completed in a consistent manner in compliance with requirements? • How well has the Department of Human Services overseen nonemergency medical transportation services?
Boards, Committees, Councils, Authorities, or Task Forces	
3. Board of Animal Health (BAH) Oversight of Companion Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has BAH fulfilled its responsibility to “protect the health of the state’s domestic animals” with respect to companion animals? • To what extent has BAH enforced Commercial Breeder Licensing and Enforcement, and Kennels and Dealers laws? • To what extent has BAH established adequate policies and standards for its work? • How does Minnesota’s regulation and oversight of companion animals compare to that of other states?
4. Minnesota Board of Public Defense <i>Related to a 2010 OLA program evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are current average caseloads for public defenders, and how do they compare to national standards? • To what extent has the Board of Public Defense met its goals? • To what extent have board members provided effective leadership and carried out their responsibilities?
5. Minnesota Office of Ombudsperson for Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively has the Office of Ombudsperson for families fulfilled its statutory duties? • How well has the Office handled complaints?

2025 Semifinalist Evaluation List (continued)

Other Topics	
6. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does Minnesota provide appropriate supports to individuals living with ASD and their families? How well do state agencies coordinate with each other, school districts, and providers to deliver services? How effectively do state agencies ensure that ASD service providers meet applicable requirements?
7. Automatic Voter Registration <i>Related to a 2018 OLA program evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has the Department of Public Safety taken appropriate measures to ensure that only eligible voters have been registered?
8. Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) <i>Related to two 2019 OLA special reviews of Internal Controls and Fraud Allegations.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How effective is CCAP in helping low-income families access affordable childcare? How well does the Department of Human Services administer the program? What controls are in place to ensure only eligible child care centers receive funds through the program?
9. Department of Human Services (DHS) Oversight of MinnesotaCare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has DHS ensured that only eligible Minnesotans enroll in MinnesotaCare?
10. Enterprise Talent Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the process for developing and approving training for state employees result in appropriate and effective training? What standards, if any, does Enterprise Talent Development use to develop and/or approve training?
11. Financial Transparency in Nursing Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How effectively has DHS monitored nursing facilities' costs and compliance with legal requirements? In particular, how has DHS ensured that these facilities have complied with the 2024 Nursing Facility Transparency Law? How transparent are nursing facilities when disclosing costs? To what extent have nursing facilities undergone private audits?
12. Medical Assistance Fraud Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What measures has DHS established to prevent fraud in the Medical Assistance program? How do these measures compare to best practices?
13. Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (WQCP) <i>Finalist for consideration during 2024 topic selection process.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well has the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) managed WQCP? How long does certification take? To what extent has MDA measured water quality improvements as a result of the program? To what extent has water quality improved? To what extent has MDA established and achieved sustainability and environmental outcomes for WQCP? How well has MDA complied with applicable requirements?

2025 Semifinalist Evaluation List (continued)

14. Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facilities Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the MDH process for licensing nursing home and assisted living facilities promote transparency, accountability, and quality care? • How does Minnesota’s process for licensing nursing home and assisted living facilities compare to national standards or best practices? • To what extent has MDH complied with requirements related to nursing home and assisted living facilities licensing? • How, if at all, have changes in ownership at nursing home and assisted living facilities coincided with changes in staffing, resident safety, resident mortality rates, overall quality of care, and costs? • To what extent does MDH investigate the appropriate use of public funds for nursing home and assisted living facilities?
15. State Oversight of Long-Term Care Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Minnesota have adequate laws in place to protect against unreasonable increases in rates for long-term care insurance? • To what extent has the Department of Commerce provided sufficient oversight of the rates providers are charging?
16. Taxpayers’ Transportation Accountability Act (TTAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has MnDOT complied with contracting requirements in the TTAA? • How has the budgeting process affected MnDOT’S ability to capitalize on potential savings? • To what extent are the factors MnDOT uses to evaluate costs of performing work itself versus contracting out for a project appropriate and consistent? • How effective has TTAA been at achieving its policy goals?
17. Unemployment Insurance <i>Related to a 2024 OLA information technology audit and a 2022 OLA program evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) have effective internal controls for the unemployment insurance program? • To what extent has DEED complied with applicable laws in managing unemployment insurance? • How has the Trust Fund balance changed in recent years, and what have been the reasons for any changes? • How timely and consistent are DEED’s investigations into suspected unemployment insurance fraud?
18. Voter Registration System <i>Related to a 2018 OLA program evaluation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Secretary of State’s Office complied with Help America Vote Act requirements? • How has the number of registered and active voters changed in recent years? • To what extent has the Secretary of State’s Office complied with requirements related to election security measures to ensure only the votes of eligible voters are counted? • To what extent have changes to voter documentation requirements affected election security and participation?