

HB1508

As a resident of Sargent County we have seen the State Auditor charge audit fees that appear to be excessive. The Fire department was hit with an audit fee of 11K for a one year audit that only had 132 checks for the whole year. The State Auditor didn't accept the public schools audits for two years and they had to pay again to have the audits re-done to the tune of \$12,500., as a tax payer I hate paying twice for the same thing and the school Superintendent states that the auditors office says the first audit wasn't complete but wouldn't say what was missing. Sargent County budgets 11k for their two year audit. It ranges from 8 to 10 K every two years. The firm that previous performed the audits is no longer doing them and the County auditor, Pam Malony, said the State Auditors office said they would do it. So the County agreed to have the State do the audit, now Pam just found out its not done yet and was told they already have about 25K into it. Why is the cost 2.5 times higher and probably worse when they get the final bill? Thats THREE excessive and/or unnecessary audits alone in our small County of just 3,800 population. We need property tax relief and this run away train of the State Auditors office has to be brought back to a reasonable speed. The bill needs to do more and hopefully it gets added to.