COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

July 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR AUDITOR GENERAL

Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Commission Lancaster County Stevens, PA 17578

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan pursuant to authority derived from the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (Act 205 of 1984, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.402(j)), which requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to audit every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited. The audit was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We planned and performed the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the area related to the objective identified above. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

• For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, we determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt.

- For the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, we determined whether employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2022, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- For the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, we determined whether employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for the period noted and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.
- For the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, we determined that there were no benefit calculations prepared.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report was prepared and submitted by March 31, 2024 in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on this report is accurate, complete, and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

Northern Lancaster Regional Police Commission contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the commission's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Commission officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. As previously described, we tested transactions, interviewed selected officials, and performed procedures to the extent necessary to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies for the periods noted above. The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information or conclude on it and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Commission and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank commission officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

Timothy L. Detaor

Timothy L. DeFoor Auditor General May 22, 2025

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BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 <u>et seq</u>.). The Act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a two percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The Northern Lancaster County Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 02-09-23-01 and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan's custodian effective January 1, 2023. Prior to January 1, 2023, the plan was a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 12-13-12-02, as amended, and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan's custodian effective January 1, 2012. The plan was established January 1, 2012. Active members are required to contribute four percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2024, the plan had two active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and no retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan.

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2023, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			Unfunded	
		Actuarial	(Assets in	
		Accrued	Excess of)	
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial	
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)
01-01-23	\$ 142,237	\$ 164,002	\$ 21,765	86.7%

The Department typically presents this data as of the plan's actuarial valuation dates for the past six consecutive fiscal years. Since six years of data was not yet available, this will be done prospectively.

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2023	\$ 11,222	701.2%
2024	11,716	207.4%

The Department typically presents this data for the past six consecutive fiscal years. Since six years of data was not yet available, this will be done prospectively.

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES (UNAUDITED)

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

The information presented in the supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	15 years
Asset valuation method	Market value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.0%
Projected salary increases	4.0%

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS (UNAUDITED)

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2017	None	\$ 4,111
2018	None	4,295
2019	None	9,348
2020	None	5,740
2021	None	10,747
2022	None	17,833

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro

Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. A. Keith Martin Chairman, Regional Police Commission

Mr. Joshua Kilgore Chief Administrative Officer/Police Chief

Ms. Rebecca Borne Administrator

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at <u>www.PaAuditor.gov</u>. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.