

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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DEWITT CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

The following letter was sent to members of the House of Representatives today by Speaker Charlie DeWitt concerning the vacancy in the office of the legislative auditor.

January 31, 2003

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Speaker Charlie DeWitt

Re: Notification of Resignation of the Legislative Auditor

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:511.1 establishes a Special Recommendation Commission for the purpose of making recommendations to the legislature for filling a vacancy in the office of the legislative auditor. The statute further requires the commission to notify the members of the legislature of a vacancy in the office of the legislative auditor within fifteen days after the occurrence of the vacancy. This letter should serve as notice to the members of the House of Representatives of such vacancy.

It is my intention to talk to President Hainkel to have the Special Recommendation Commission meet in the very near future to begin discussions involving the replacement of the legislative auditor. According to the statutes, the Commission is to consider any nominee submitted to it by a member of the legislature. In addition, I would encourage the Commission to interview any other applicant who wishes to place himself or herself into consideration for the position. More information concerning where to send applications and deadlines for doing so will be available as soon as the details have been worked out.

Since the position of legislative auditor is so important, I believe interviews with potential candidates for the nomination should be held in public hearings. This should be a very open process. Upon the completion of the interviews, the Commission will submit its recommendations to the legislature at the upcoming Regular Session.

Thank you for your patience in this matter. If I or my staff can be of any assistance to you or if you have any questions, please feel free to call.