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### State committee votes for Hollywood audit

By [Tonya Alanez](#), Sun Sentinel

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#### HOLLYWOOD

This financially troubled city will be the subject of a state audit, the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee unanimously decided Monday morning.

The audit request came from state Sen. Eleanor Sobel, D-Hollywood.

For two years in a row the city has declared "financial urgency." To overcome a \$38 million gap in the current budget, the city laid off 10 city employees this summer and slashed pay for most other workers by 7.5 percent and cut salaries for police and firefighters by 12.5 percent.

The city also turned to voters, who on Sept. 13 approved sweeping changes to city employee pensions for an estimated \$8.5 million in savings.

"It is my belief that such an audit will go a long way towards restoring or ensuring citizen confidence in their local government," Sobel wrote in a June 17 letter requesting the audit.

At a Monday morning meeting, the committee directed the state's auditor general to proceed with the Hollywood audit.

A committee staff report recommended the scope of the audit include the city's revenue forecasting practices, budget development processes and financial management.

"I don't think it's needed, we have made a lot of the very difficult choices that needed to be made to put the city on a more solid financial footing," city Spokeswoman Raelin Storey said Monday evening. "But it certainly can be part of the process. Our finances are audited every year, and it's something we're ready for."

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