

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which
3 was referred House Bill No. 702 entitled “An act relating to act relating to
4 legislative operations and government accountability” respectfully reports that
5 it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 * * * Purpose and Findings * * *

9 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

10 (a) The purpose of this act is to actuate the principle of government
11 accountability by focusing on how evidence is used to inform policy, how our
12 State laws are carried out, and how legislation can best be formed to achieve its
13 intended outcomes. This act strives to systematize government accountability
14 efforts as much as possible with simple, clear, independent, objective, and fact-
15 based processes rather than rely upon individual legislators or individual
16 committees to be effective.

17 (b) Government accountability means the principle of demanding that
18 legislation succeeds in achieving its stated policy goals through the provision
19 of means by which to measure whether the policy goals have been met. The
20 metrics for determining whether success has been achieved are as important as
21 the goals themselves.

1 Committees. In addition to two members-at-large appointed from each
2 chamber, one appointment shall be made from each of the House Committee
3 on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on
4 Government Operations, and the House and Senate Committees on
5 Appropriations.

6 (c) The Committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, and clerk from among its
7 members and shall adopt rules of procedure. The position of chair shall rotate
8 biennially between the House and the Senate members. The Committee shall
9 keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof. A quorum shall
10 consist of five members.

11 (d) The Committee shall meet as necessary for the prompt discharge of its
12 duties but shall meet at least every other week.

13 (e) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in
14 session, members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation for
15 services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under subsection 23(a) of
16 this title.

17 (f) The professional and clerical services of the Joint Fiscal Office, the
18 Office of Legislative Operations, and the Office of Legislative Counsel shall
19 be available to the Committee.

20 § 972. DUTIES AND POWERS

1 (a) Duties. The Committee shall have duties as described in this section
2 and elsewhere in law.

3 (1)(A) The Committee shall exercise government oversight by
4 examining and investigating matters of significant public concern relating to
5 State government performance. The Committee shall examine the possible
6 reasons for any failure of government oversight and provide tangible
7 recommendations to prevent future failures.

8 (B) The Committee will select issues of significant public concern to
9 examine and investigate by a majority of the current Committee members who
10 have not recused themselves from the matter.

11 (C) As used in this section, an “issue of significant public concern”
12 means any issue that:

13 (i) affects the State as a whole;

14 (ii) affects a vulnerable population;

15 (iii) costs the State more than \$100,000,000.00;

16 (iv) implicates a serious failure of State government oversight or
17 accountability;

18 (v) arises from previously enacted legislation; or

19 (vi) constitutes a failure to adequately respond to State or federal
20 audits.

1 (a) Unless otherwise provided by law, whenever it is required by statute,
2 rule, or otherwise that an agency, department, or other entity submit an annual,
3 biennial, or other periodic report to the General Assembly, that requirement
4 shall be met by submission by ~~January~~ November 15 of copies of the report for
5 activities in the preceding fiscal year to the Clerk of the House, the Secretary
6 of the Senate, the Office of Legislative ~~Counsel~~ Operations, chairs of
7 legislative standing committees of jurisdiction, and such individual members
8 of the General Assembly or committees that specifically request a copy of the
9 report. ~~To the extent practicable, reports~~ Reports shall also be ~~placed~~
10 published on the agency's ~~Internet~~ website. No general distribution or mailing
11 of such reports shall be made to members of the General Assembly.

12 * * *

13 (e) If it becomes apparent to any agency, department, or other entity
14 directed by the General Assembly to report on a matter that the agency,
15 department, or entity will be unable to do so within the required time, the
16 reporting agency, department, or entity shall inform, if applicable, the relevant
17 legislative committee's current chair, the committee assistant, and the Office of
18 Legislative Operations of which report will be late, why, and when it will be
19 delivered.

20 Sec. 4. MANAGEMENT OF REPORTS AND DATA; APPROPRIATION

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE