

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which
3 was referred House Bill No. 67 entitled “An act relating to legislative
4 operations and government accountability” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Purpose and Findings * * *

8 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

9 The purpose of this act is to advance the principle of government
10 accountability by examining how evidence is used to inform policy, how State
11 laws are implemented, and how legislation may be structured to achieve its
12 intended outcomes. This act seeks to support consistent and transparent
13 accountability practices through simple, clear, independent, objective, and fact-
14 based processes.

15 * * * Pilot Government Accountability Project * * *

16 Sec. 2. PILOT GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

17 (a) Assignment. The Joint Fiscal Committee shall, in addition to its other
18 duties described in law and rules, conduct a Pilot Government Accountability
19 Project to examine governmental practices, make recommendations on
20 improving those practices, and develop effective tools for evaluating
21 government accountability.

1 (b) Selection of Project issues before the Committee. The Chief Fiscal
2 Officer of the Joint Fiscal Office, in consultation with the Speaker of the
3 House, the President Pro Tempore, and the leaders of the major political
4 parties in both the House and the Senate, will select issues for the Committee’s
5 consideration and refer these to the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before
6 August 1, 2026.

7 (c) Charge. The Committee is charged with completing, to the extent
8 feasible, Project elements as described in this section.

9 (1) Examination of issues selected by Committee. The Committee shall
10 be empowered to examine, investigate, and otherwise analyze issues that it
11 selects pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

12 (2) Review of program performance. The Committee shall examine
13 whether State programs and initiatives are advancing the policy goals
14 established in statute, including consideration of outcome data, implementation
15 progress, and operational challenges.

16 (3) Consideration of evidence and evaluation. The Committee shall
17 review available research, independent evaluations, audits, and performance
18 measures relevant to State programs and policies and encourage the use of
19 reliable data and evaluation methods in legislative decision-making.

20 (4) Identification of effective practices and improvement opportunities.
21 The Committee shall highlight approaches that demonstrate positive outcomes,

1 identify barriers to effective implementation, and recommend reasonable
2 opportunities for improvement, coordination, or replication where appropriate.

3 (5) Support for alignment of policy, funding, and outcomes. The
4 Committee shall provide information and recommendations that assist the
5 General Assembly in aligning appropriations, statutory intent, and measurable
6 results.

7 (6) Monitoring of follow-up actions. The Committee shall, when
8 issuing recommendations, request updates from relevant agencies regarding
9 actions taken or progress made, as appropriate.

10 (7) Coordination with existing oversight entities. The Committee shall
11 work in consultation with legislative committees of jurisdiction, the State
12 Auditor, Chief Performance Officer, and other relevant entities to avoid
13 duplication and to support efficient use of State resources.

14 (8) Surveying of data and data impact. The Committee shall survey
15 available State data and documented impacts to better understand
16 implementation, outcomes, and opportunities for improvement.

17 (9) Communication of outcomes. The Committee shall consider how
18 and when program outcomes and performance information are communicated,
19 including the audiences receiving such information and the clarity, timeliness,
20 and usefulness of the communication for supporting transparency, public
21 understanding, and informed decision-making.

1 (10) Development of evaluation tools. The Committee may consider the
2 development or use of appropriate tools and methods to assess program
3 outcomes and performance, including measures that support consistent
4 evaluation, transparency, and informed legislative and administrative decision-
5 making.

6 (d) Report. On or before December 15, 2026, and then again on or before
7 November 15, 2027, the Committee shall present and submit a written report to
8 the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the
9 Senate Committee on Government Operations that includes any findings on the
10 issues examined and any recommendations for legislative action.

11 * * * Legislative Joint Fiscal Office Consultant; Appropriation * * *

12 Sec. 3. LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL OFFICE CONSULTANT;

13 APPROPRIATION

14 (a) Committee personnel. The Legislative Joint Fiscal Office may, to
15 conduct research and analysis and to provide other support as necessary for the
16 Pilot Government Accountability Project either:

17 (1) contract with a consultant for a two-year term; or

18 (2) create a new exempt temporary service position for a two-year term.

19 (b) Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Legislative Joint Fiscal
20 Office from the General Fund in fiscal year 2027 the sum of \$150,000.00 for
21 Pilot Government Accountability Project personnel.

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* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE