

HB 4 -- SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

SPONSOR: Gregory

This bill establishes the Special Joint Committee on Government Oversight to hear residents' complaints against county health officials, including any city not within a county.

The Committee shall be made up of 14 members, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives and six other members of the House, and the President Pro Tem of the Senate and six other members of the Senate. No more than four members from each chamber can be from the same political party.

The committee must convene within 30 days after its creation to select a chair and vice chair. After the initial meeting the committee will meet only if it receives a petition as specified in the bill.

Any resident of a county may file a complaint against an order made by a public health official of the county. The complaint must contain the following information:

- (1) The name of the county and the public health official whose order is being challenged;
- (2) The name or names of the individuals or entities filing the complaint;
- (3) A copy of the order being challenged and whether the order is being challenged in whole or in part;
- (4) If the order is being challenged in part, the specific part or parts being challenged;
- (5) A request for a hearing of the committee to determine whether the order shall stand; and
- (6) A petition signed by 15% of the registered voters of the county, determined by the county clerk as of the most recent gubernatorial election.

The complaint must be filed by submitting it to the Speaker, the President Pro Tem, the county clerk, and the public health official.

The county clerk must verify the signatures on the petition within 30 days of receipt, and advise the Speaker, President Pro Tem, the public health official, and the persons filing the complaint if a

sufficient number of signatures were verified and the complaint can proceed.

The Speaker and the President Pro Tem must set a hearing date within 60 days from the date of filing the original complaint petition.

The hearing must allow both the individuals filing the complaint and the public health official to speak, as well as witnesses in favor of the complaint, in opposition to the complaint, and for informational purposes only. The chair of the committee may set reasonable limits on the number of witnesses or the time allowed for each witness, but the limits shall be equal for both sides of the complaint.

After the hearing, the committee will vote to overturn the order in whole or in part or to uphold the order. A majority vote is required to overturn an order.

The provisions of this section shall sunset on December 31, 2021.