

HB 1356 -- LOCAL RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

SPONSOR: Smith (163)

This bill establishes the "Committee on Local Recovery Accountability and Transparency" to coordinate and conduct oversight of covered funds to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. The Committee will be made up of one member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker; one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tem; the State Auditor; the State Treasurer; and the State Budget Director.

The committee shall coordinate and conduct oversight of funds received by political subdivisions under the American Rescue Plan of 2021 and any subsequent economic stimulus or budget stabilization plan as enacted by the 117th Congress after February 28, 2021, and before January 1, 2022. Under this bill, local governments must report receipt of such funds and their expenditures within 30 days in a format determined by the Committee.

The bill empowers the Committee to request additional information from political subdivisions; to hold hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence; and to review specified contracts or grants and the bidding on such contracts and grants. The bill requires that the Committee submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Governor outlining its findings.

The Committee shall terminate on December 1, 2023.