

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION 1

P5

6lr2820

By: **Delegates Buckel, Pippy, Adams, Anderson, Arentz, Baker, Beauchamp, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Ghrist, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Hutchinson, Jacobs, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Metzgar, Miller, T. Morgan, Nkongolo, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Stonko, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION

1 A House Resolution concerning

2 **State Agencies – Misconduct Related to Federal Funding – Legislative**
3 **Investigating Committee**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a legislative investigating committee in accordance with Title
5 2, Subtitle 16 of the State Government Article to investigate allegations of
6 misconduct by State agencies related to federal funding; and generally relating to a
7 legislative investigating committee to investigate allegations of misconduct by State
8 agencies.

9 WHEREAS, An audit of the State Highway Administration, triggered by a tip to the
10 waste, fraud, and abuse hotline, found that the Administration had inappropriately
11 charged nearly \$360 million in expenditures to federally funded projects that were deemed
12 unauthorized with the intent to minimize the deficit in the Transportation Trust Fund; and

13 WHEREAS, The investigation triggered by the tip found that, from June 2020
14 through August 2025, there was a 3,523% increase in unauthorized federal fund
15 expenditures, with the most significant increase occurring between July 2022 and August
16 2025; and

17 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation generally agreed with the findings
18 and recommendations of the investigation; and

19 WHEREAS, A whistleblower report regarding the Maryland Department of Health
20 alleges that two senior officials in the Department had a plan to maintain a high error rate
21 on payments related to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to take
22 advantage of a loophole in federal law that allows states to delay the payment of penalties
23 related to the Program; and



1 WHEREAS, The above–referenced examples alone could cost Maryland’s taxpayers
2 \$600 million in declined charges and fines and may be evidence of a troubling pattern of
3 behavior that could be occurring at other State agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, The provisions of Title 2, Subtitle 16 of the State Government Article
5 provide that the only method by which a legislative investigating committee may be created
6 is by a resolution of the Senate or the House of Delegates; and

7 WHEREAS, Such a resolution is required to set forth the size of the membership of
8 the legislative investigating committee and its powers, purpose, duties, duration, subject
9 matter, and scope of investigatory authority; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, That, in accordance with the
11 provisions of Title 2, Subtitle 16 of the State Government Article, a legislative investigating
12 committee is established to investigate allegations of misconduct related to federal funding
13 by:

14 (1) the Department of Transportation;

15 (2) the Maryland Department of Health; and

16 (3) any other State agency for which the legislative investigating
17 committee receives a credible complaint alleging misconduct related to federal funding; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the legislative investigating committee established by this
20 Resolution:

21 (1) shall consist of:

22 (i) four members of the House of Delegates who are Democrats,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

24 (ii) four members of the House of Delegates who are Republicans,
25 appointed by the House Minority Leader;

26 (2) shall have the powers conferred on legislative investigating committees
27 by Title 2, Subtitle 16 of the State Government Article, including the power to issue
28 subpoenas, apply for contempt citations, administer oaths, conduct and record public
29 hearings, examine witnesses, and direct witnesses to answer questions;

30 (3) shall elect a chair and vice chair, adopt rules that govern the
31 committee’s procedures, including the conduct of hearings, and employ necessary staff for
32 which funds are available;

33 (4) is subject to the quorum and voting requirements of § 2–1606 of the
34 State Government Article; and

1 (5) may meet when the General Assembly is in session and when it is not
2 in session; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the legislative investigating committee established by this
4 Resolution shall submit a report on the committee's findings, conclusions, and
5 recommendations to the House of Delegates at the earliest date it deems possible; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
8 Legislative Services to the Governor of Maryland and the Speaker of the House of
9 Delegates.