

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Simple Resolution 1 (Delegate Buckel, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

**State Agencies - Misconduct Related to Federal Funding - Legislative
Investigating Committee**

This resolution establishes a legislative investigating committee to investigate allegations of misconduct related to federal funding by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and any other State agency for which the committee receives a credible complaint alleging misconduct relating to federal funding. The resolution establishes the membership of the committee, the committee's powers, which includes the powers to issue subpoenas and apply for contempt citations, and reporting requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) can likely staff the committee with existing resources; however, general fund expenditures may increase to the extent it must hire outside counsel to support the investigating committee. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The resolution is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Title 2, Subtitle 16 of the State Government Article establishes a code of fair procedures for the operation of an investigating committee so that it may hold hearings and otherwise properly carry out its powers and duties fairly, impartially, and consistently

with the constitutional rights of a person who is involved in a proceeding of the investigating committee, and the public good.

An investigating committee may only be established by a resolution of the Senate or the House of Delegates, and the resolution must state the investigating committee's purpose, powers, duties, duration, subject matter, scope of investigatory authority, and size. Subject to the requirements of law and any rule of the General Assembly, an investigating committee may employ necessary staff when funds are available.

Generally, an investigating committee may issue a subpoena or a contempt citation if a majority of the committee's members vote to do so. Statute contains both the procedure under which an individual is to be served such a subpoena or a contempt citation and the consequences if the individual does not comply with either.

Additional Comment: DLS and the Department of Budget and Management advise that the Department of Human Services, rather than MDH, administers the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the State.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services - Office of Legislative Audits; Department of Legislative Services

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