

SCS HB 544 -- OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

(Vetoed by the Governor)

This bill changes the laws regarding the oversight of public funds and access to the dome of the State Capitol.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The bill establishes the Joint Committee on Recovery Accountability and Transparency to coordinate and conduct oversight of moneys received by the state and any political subdivision from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly known as the federal economic stimulus act, to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. The committee will consist of four members; two each from the House of Representatives and the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker and the President Pro Tem respectively. The duties of the committee include:

- (1) Reviewing whether the reporting of contracts and grants using these funds meet applicable standards and specify the purpose of the contract or grant and performance measures;
- (2) Reviewing whether applicable competition requirements to contracts and grants using these funds have been satisfied;
- (3) Reviewing these funds to determine whether wasteful spending, poor contract or grant management, or other abuses are occurring and referring appropriate matters for investigation to the Attorney General or the agency that disbursed the funds;
- (4) Receiving regular reports from the Commissioner of the Office of Administration, or his or her designee, regarding these funds;
- (5) Submitting annual reports to the Governor and General Assembly that summarize its findings. All reports must be made publicly available and posted on the Governor's, the General Assembly's, and each state agency's web site except for portions which would disclose information that is not subject to disclosure under state law; and
- (6) Making recommendations to agencies on measures to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse regarding these funds. No later than 30 days after receipt of a recommendation, an agency must submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly stating whether the agency agrees or disagrees with the recommendation and any action the agency will take to implement the recommendations.

MISSOURI ACCOUNTABILITY PORTAL

The Commissioner of the Office of Administration is required to maintain the Missouri Accountability Portal established in Executive Order 07-24 as a free, Internet-based tool allowing citizens to demand fiscal discipline and responsibility. The portal will consist of an easy-to-search database of financial transactions related to the purchase of goods and services and the distribution of funds for state programs. The portal must be updated each business day and maintained as the primary source of information about the activities of state government.

ACCESS TO THE STATE CAPITOL DOME

The commissioner must provide each member of the General Assembly with a key that accesses the dome of the State Capitol.

The provisions of the bill regarding the joint committee will expire March 1, 2012.