

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-247 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF

Title: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

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REASONS FOR BILL:

Sec 1 requires approval from the Governor or Attorney General for any payments exceeding \$50,000 to a resigning or retiring employee for purposes other than avoiding litigations costs.

Sec 2 clarifies when foundations are required to reimburse state agencies for salaries and benefits when their employees perform work for a related foundation.

Sec 3 removes the Comptroller from the Treasurer's audit.

Sec 4 eliminates the ability for the State Contracting Board to enter into an agreement with the Auditors of Public Accounts to conduct its audits.

Sec 5 requires any state agencies contracting for the purchase of audit services of any value to ensure the contract requires the entity providing such services also share its information with the Auditors of Public Accounts and to provide a copy to the auditors upon request.

Sec 6 eliminates the requirement for the auditors to advise whether contracted audit services are necessary.

Sec 7 clarifies when quasi-public agencies must submit required annual and quarterly reports.

Sec 8 clarifies that the annual comprehensive financial review of the Technical Services Revolving Fund is performed as part of the audit of the Comptroller's annual comprehensive financial report.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Craig Miner, State Auditor, Auditors of Public Accounts: The Auditors of Public Accounts testified in support of SB 247. They stated that the bill implements recommendations from their audit reports to improve oversight and accountability in state government. They noted that the bill clarifies approval requirements for payments exceeding \$50,000 to resigning or retiring employees, updates audit procedures, and requires quasi-public agencies to submit annual reports within six months after the end of their fiscal year.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Dr. Harold A. Foley, President, HF3 Group: Dr. Foley testified in support of SB 247 and cited findings from the Auditors of Public Accounts and documents obtained through FOIA requests alleging more than \$100 million in questionable Department of Housing funding. He raised concerns about non-competitive funding processes, projects exceeding established funding caps, potential conflicts of interest involving entities connected to the commissioner, and the use of public funds for contractor settlements and investor exits. He also referenced cases where reported housing units did not match units physically built. He urged the legislature to strengthen oversight, investigate these funding practices, and adopt reforms to improve transparency, enforce competitive funding processes, and ensure accountability in the Department of Housing.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff
Assistant Clerk- Mike Hamann**

Date: 3/20/26