

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 435

Establishment of a select committee to investigate and oversee the awarding and execution of contracts for relief and reconstruction activities in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Establishment of a select committee to investigate and oversee the awarding and execution of contracts for relief and reconstruction activities in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

1 *Resolved*, That there is established a select committee
2 to investigate and oversee the awarding and execution of
3 contracts for relief and reconstruction activities in areas
4 affected by Hurricane Katrina.

5 **SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS.**

6 The select committee shall conduct an ongoing study
7 and investigation of the awarding and carrying out of con-
8 tracts by the Government for relief and reconstruction ac-

1 tivities in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and to
2 make such recommendations to the House as the select
3 committee deems appropriate regarding the following mat-
4 ters—

5 (1) oversight procedures for the awarding of
6 contracts and distribution of appropriated funds;

7 (2) bidding, contracting, and auditing stand-
8 ards in the issuance of government contracts;

9 (3) accountability of contractors and Federal,
10 State, and local government officials involved in pro-
11 curement;

12 (4) penalties for violations of law, official cor-
13 ruption, and abuses in the awarding or carrying out
14 of government contracts; and

15 (5) such other matters as the select committee
16 deems appropriate.

17 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**

18 The select committee shall be composed of 15 individ-
19 uals, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House (of
20 whom 7 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of
21 the minority leader), one of whom shall be designated as
22 chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of
23 the select committee shall be filled in the same manner
24 in which the original appointment was made.

1 **SEC. 4. RULES AND PROCEDURE.**

2 (a) **POWERS.**—For the purpose of carrying out this
3 resolution, the select committee may sit and act during
4 the present Congress at any time and place within the
5 United States or elsewhere, whether the House is in ses-
6 sion, has recessed, or has adjourned and hold such hear-
7 ings as it considers necessary and to require, by subpoena
8 or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such wit-
9 nesses, the furnishing of information by interrogatory, and
10 the production of such books, records, correspondence,
11 memoranda, papers, documents, and other things and in-
12 formation of any kind as it deems necessary, including
13 classified materials.

14 (b) **QUORUM.**—One-third of the members of the se-
15 lect committee shall constitute a quorum for the trans-
16 action of business except for the reporting of the results
17 of its study and investigation (with its recommendations)
18 or the authorization of subpoenas, which shall require a
19 majority of the committee to be actually present.

20 (c) **ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.**—A subpoena may be
21 authorized and issued by the select committee in the con-
22 duct of any investigation or series of investigations or ac-
23 tivities only when authorized by 8 members of the select
24 committee. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the
25 chairman or by any member designated by the select com-
26 mittee, and may be served by any person designated by

1 the chairman or such member. Subpoenas shall be issued
2 under the seal of the House and attested by the Clerk.
3 The select committee may request investigations, reports,
4 and other assistance from any agency of the executive, leg-
5 islative, or judicial branch of the Government.

6 (d) MEETINGS.—The chairman, or in his absence a
7 member designated by the chairman, shall preside at all
8 meetings and hearings of the select committee. All meet-
9 ings and hearings of the select committee shall be con-
10 ducted in open session, unless 8 members of the select
11 committee vote to close a meeting or hearing.

12 (e) APPLICABILITY OF RULES OF THE HOUSE.—The
13 Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to stand-
14 ing committees shall govern the select committee where
15 not inconsistent with this resolution.

16 (f) WRITTEN COMMITTEE RULES.—The select com-
17 mittee shall adopt additional written rules, which shall be
18 public, to govern its procedures, which shall not be incon-
19 sistent with this resolution or the Rules of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

22 (a) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.—The select committee
23 staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the
24 chairman and shall work under the general supervision
25 and direction of the chairman.

1 (b) COMPENSATION.—The chairman shall fix the
2 compensation of all staff of the select committee within
3 the budget approved for such purposes for the select com-
4 mittee.

5 (c) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—The select
6 committee may reimburse the members of its staff for
7 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
8 by them in the performance of the their functions for the
9 select committee.

10 (d) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid
11 out of the applicable accounts of the House such sums
12 as may be necessary for the expenses of the select com-
13 mittee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed
14 by the chairman of the select committee and approved in
15 the manner directed by the Committee on House Adminis-
16 tration. Amounts made available under this subsection
17 shall be expended in accordance with regulations pre-
18 scribed by the Committee on House Administration.

19 (e) EXPIRATION.—The select committee shall cease
20 to exist at the close of the 109th Congress.

21 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

22 (a) REPORTS.—The select committee shall provide
23 quarterly reports to the House containing the results of
24 its study and investigation, with its recommendations. Any
25 report made by the select committee when the House is

1 not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.
2 Any report made by the select committee shall be referred
3 to the committee or committees that have jurisdiction over
4 the subject matter of the report.

5 (b) RECORDS.—Upon the dissolution of the select
6 committee, the records, files, and materials of the select
7 committee shall be transferred to the Clerk of the House.

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