



Colorado Legislative Council Staff

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF FY 2014-15 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Summary

The Legislative Council Staff budget request for FY 2014-15 is presented herein. The appropriation request of \$7,772,788 represents a 5.97 percent increase over the current year appropriation and includes funding for 69.3 FTE. No new FTE are included in this request. The detailed budget request begins on page 9-LCS. Table 1, on page 2-LCS, provides a summary of the appropriations and request, by line item, for FY 2012-13 to FY 2014-15.

The request includes an increase for employer contributions to health, dental, and life insurance, a 4.5 percent increase to the base salary budget pursuant to the Joint Budget Committee common policy, and funding for the ReadyOp emergency notification system. The request also includes increases for ongoing investment in information technology for the Legislative Branch, the employer contributions for the PERA amortization equalization disbursement (AED) and PERA supplemental amortization equalization disbursement (SAED). On January 1, 2015, the AED rate will increase from 3.8 percent to 4.2 percent and the SAED rate will increase from 3.5 percent to 4.0 percent.

Table 1: Legislative Council Staff Line Item Appropriations and Request

	Actual FY 2012-13 Total Funds	Appropriation FY 2013-14 Total Funds	Request FY 2014-15 Total Funds	Percent +/(-) Change
Personal Services	\$ 5,143,394	\$ 6,107,507	\$ 6,467,006	5.89%
Operating	\$ 620,716	\$ 677,750	\$ 780,097	15.10%
Travel	\$ 17,627	\$ 31,522	\$ 31,522	0.00%
Capital Outlay	\$ 46,107	\$ 191,671	\$ 96,671	-49.56%
Subtotal	\$ 5,827,844	\$ 7,008,450	\$ 7,375,296	5.23%
PERA AED	\$ 129,116	\$ 171,798	\$ 205,435	19.58%
PERA SAED	\$ 110,548	\$ 154,538	\$ 192,057	24.28%
Grand Total	\$ 6,067,508	\$ 7,334,786	\$ 7,772,788	5.97%
FTE	68.0	69.3	69.3	

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF FY 2014-15 BUDGET REQUEST NARRATIVE

The Legislative Council was created in 1953 to collect data, to examine constitutional and statutory provisions and possible amendments, to consider important issues of public policy, and to prepare reports, bills, and other documents for presentation to the General Assembly. Pursuant to Section 2-3-303 (1), C.R.S., the Legislative Council is authorized to perform the following functions:

- to collect information concerning the government and general welfare of the state;
- to examine the effects of constitutional provisions and statutes and recommend desirable alterations;
- to consider important issues of public policy and questions of statewide interest;
- to prepare for presentation to the members and various sessions of the General Assembly such reports, bills, or otherwise, as the welfare of the state may require;
- to expend monies or to authorize the expenditure of moneys to accomplish the functions contained in this section out of moneys appropriated to the Legislative Council by the General Assembly;
- to approve bills recommended by interim committees or other committees created by statute or resolution which operate during the interim; and
- to review the ballot information booklet prepared by the Director of Research at a public hearing in accordance with Section 1-40-124.5, C.R.S.

The information gathering function of the Legislative Council created a need for a continuing and permanent research staff to serve the needs of the General Assembly. To fulfill this function, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council appoints a Director of Research who in turn hires professional, technical, clerical, or other employees necessary to perform the functions assigned. The functions of staff may be grouped under seven broad categories:

- (1) staffing committees of reference during the regular session and special sessions of the legislature;
- (2) staffing interim and statutory committees, including the Legislative Council, the Capital Development Committee, the Transportation Legislation Review Committee, the Water Resources Review Committee, and the Joint Technology Committee;
- (3) responding to requests for research, including constituent requests;
- (4) preparing fiscal notes and fiscal memoranda;
- (5) providing economic data and revenue forecasts;
- (6) management of information systems for the entire Legislative Branch; and
- (7) performing other centralized support services such as accounting, printing, and visitor services.

Agency Program Description

The functions of Legislative Council are performed by staff within five agency sections. These sections are:

- (1) Office Administration;
- (2) Policy, Research, Constituent Services, and Committee Staff;
- (3) Economics, Forecasting, and Fiscal Notes;
- (4) Legislative Information Services; and
- (5) Support Services.

An organizational chart depicting agency programs is on page 8-LCS.

Office Administration

Office administration is comprised of 4.0 FTE, including the Director, Deputy Director, an office administrator, and an administrative assistant who also serves as staff assistant to the section. Office administration is responsible for:

- providing general vision and direction for the development of the agency;
- the overall supervision, evaluation, and retention of employees;
- providing staff support to the Executive Committee of Legislative Council in matters pertaining to the management of the General Assembly;
- allocation of office resources to the various programs and activities of the office;
- administration of requests for proposal, special studies and projects, and negotiation of vendor contracts;
- assuring timely and complete response to legislators' requests for research;
- participation in the initiative filing, comment, and review process established by law;
- overseeing the publication and distribution of the Analysis of Ballot Proposals;
- working with members of the General Assembly on issues of concern; and
- assisting the public concerning questions regarding the General Assembly and state government.

Policy, Research, Constituent Services, and Committee Staff

The research section of Legislative Council is staffed by 25.8 FTE. The staff is responsible for a wide array of research and committee staffing activities, including the staffing of committees of reference, interim committees, statutory committees such as the Capital Development Committee, staffing the Joint Legislative Library, and staffing the constituent services program.

The activities of the Policy, Research, Constituent Services, and Committee Staff section are outlined below:

Staff for standing committees

- scheduling bills at the direction of the chair;
- providing information to the public on committee activities;
- preparing committee reports;
- preparing summaries of meetings;
- preparing research at committee request; and
- arranging for special meetings of committees.

Staff for statutory and interim committees

- planning and arranging for meetings at the direction of the chair;
- preparing research and longer-term research projects on topics of interest to committees;
- working with the Office of Legislative Legal Services on committee bill requests;
- preparing committee summaries;
- providing information to the public;
- making arrangements for special committee activities; and
- preparing final reports of committees.

Research requests and constituent services

- responding to research requests from members of the General Assembly;
- updating publications such as the "Health Care Resources book," "Directory of State Government," and "Motor Vehicle Law Resource Book;"
- writing and editing the *Analysis of Ballot Proposals*; and
- assisting members of the General Assembly in providing information to answer constituent questions.

Joint Legislative Library

- providing nonpartisan reference services, research assistance and information for the General Assembly, its staff, and other library users;
- maintaining a library collection of print and non-print items, with emphasis on the governmental, legislative and legal resources, pertinent to the General Assembly and its staff, Legislative Council, and Office of Legislative Legal Services staff;
- providing and maintaining Colorado legislative documents and reports required to be filed with the General Assembly, and
- creating and maintaining the library on-line catalog, research memoranda database, and legislators' history database.

Economics, Forecasting, and Fiscal Notes

The economics, forecasting, and fiscal notes section is staffed by 18.5 FTE.

Economics and forecasting. The economics area provides the General Assembly with information utilized in the budget process. Specifically, forecasts are provided for the following revenue and expenditure items:

- General Fund revenues (roughly half of the state's revenues);
- Cash fund revenues (roughly one-fourth of the state's revenues), including:
 - ▶ higher education enrollment and revenues
 - ▶ Highway Users Tax Fund revenues (HUTF)
 - ▶ Unemployment Insurance Tax Fund revenues and fund balances
 - ▶ Tobacco master settlement payments
 - ▶ Severance taxes, federal mineral lease payments, and other large cash funds;
- constitutional and statutory spending limits;
- the national and Colorado economies;
- the adult and juvenile incarcerated offender populations;
- assessed values and property taxes by counties and school districts for use in determining school financial aid; and
- kindergarten to twelfth grade public school enrollment for use in determining school finance state aid.

These tasks result in a quarterly publication of the revenue and economic outlook, as well as in many memoranda that detail the other forecasts. Additional tasks of this section include:

- evaluating tax policy, revenue, and budget issues for the General Assembly;
- analyzing the economy as it relates to legislative and revenue issues;
- preparing simulations of, disseminating information on, and publishing reports regarding the school finance act;
- providing economic impact analysis of various bills introduced by the General Assembly;
- conducting research as requested by the General Assembly; and
- making presentations to and responding to questions from the general public.

Fiscal notes. The fiscal notes staff is responsible for reviewing each printed bill and concurrent resolution for its probable fiscal impact. Bills limited to appropriations measures carrying specific dollar amounts are excepted from this requirement. A revised fiscal note is prepared for an engrossed, reengrossed, revised, or rerevised bill when warranted. Other duties of this program include:

- providing assistance to interim and statutory committees;
- responding to research requests from committees and individual legislators;
- acting as liaison with executive agencies, the Joint Budget Committee staff, and others as questions arise during the fiscal note process; and
- participating in specialized research projects and studies, such as the annual property tax audit of county assessments, property tax projection modeling, the biennial school district cost-of-living study, and the ballot analysis.

Legislative Information Services

Legislative Information Services (LIS) is staffed by 14.0 FTE. LIS is responsible for management of information systems for the entire Legislative Branch, including:

- network hardware, software, and infrastructure, including wireless;
- end user hardware and software support for staff and members;
- licensing and other compliance, verification of data, and system security;
- provision of legislative information through the General Assembly website, including support and development; and
- technical liaison with third-party stakeholders and partners, including the general public and other state agencies.

Support Services

The support services section of the Legislative Council Staff is staffed by 7.0 FTE and encompasses three functions: (1) accounting, (2) printing, and (3) Capitol visitor services. A description of the responsibilities of each of the functions follows.

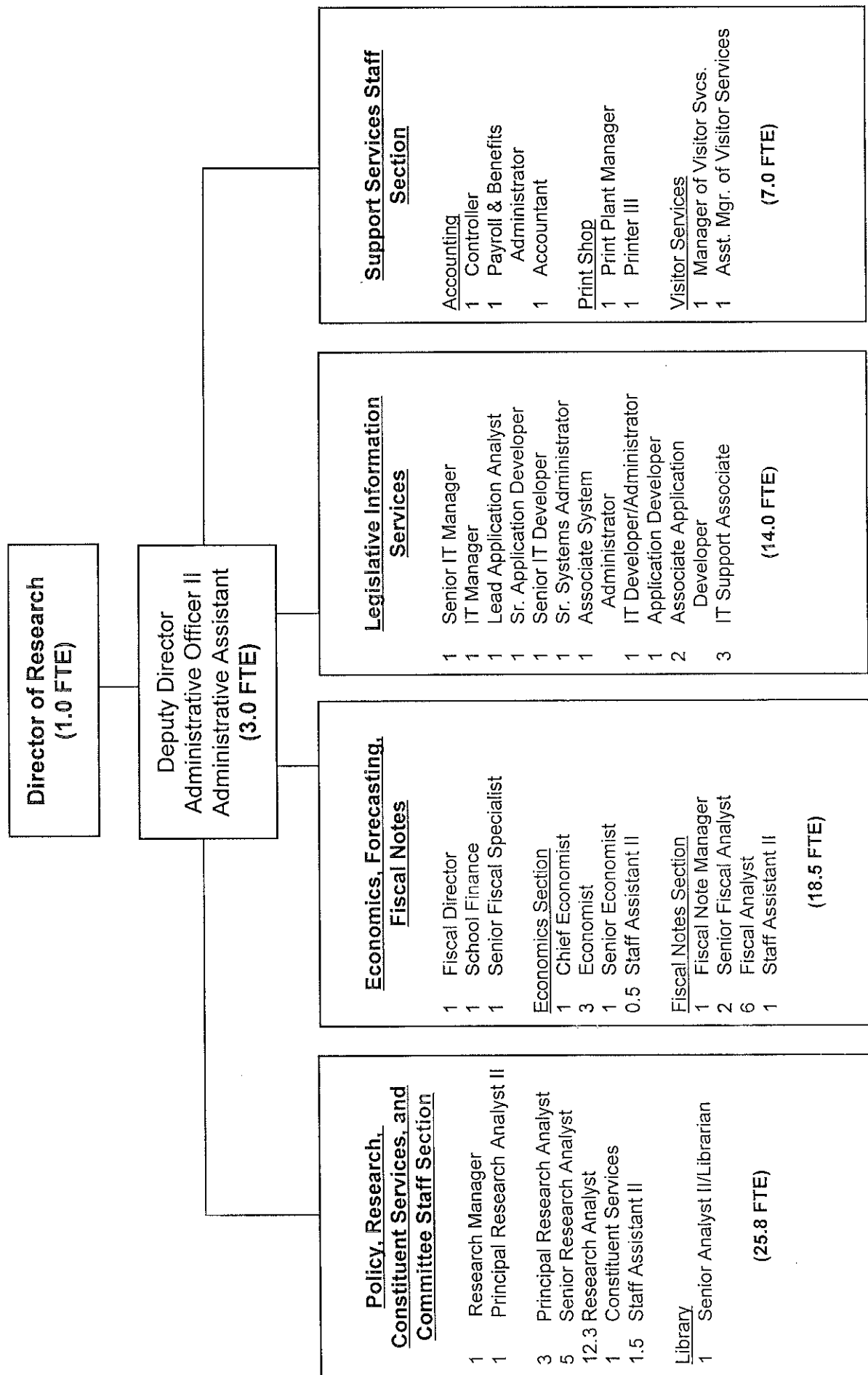
Accounting. The accounting staff provides services to the General Assembly and legislative service agencies. Primary tasks include:

- coordination and oversight of legislative branch agency accounting functions;
- preparation of the annual budget request;
- preparation of annual legislative branch financial statements;
- payroll, personnel, and benefits administration;
- accounts payable/receivable; and
- maintenance of a centralized filing system for all accounting transactions performed by legislative branch agency accounting staff except the Office of the State Auditor.

Printing. The print shop provides printing services to the General Assembly and legislative services agencies. The print shop uses an offset press and copy machines. The print shop is able to offer a full range of printing services to the legislature upon request.

Capitol visitor services. The visitor services staff and volunteers provide Capitol visitors with historical, legislative, and dome tours. An estimated 250,000 persons visit the State Capitol annually. Approximately 55,000 of these visitors join tours of the building coordinated by visitor services staff.

Legislative Council Staff Organization Chart



Department: Legislature Agency: Legislative Council Staff	Actual FY 2012-2013 Total Funds	FTE	Appropriation FY 2013-2014 Total Funds	FTE	Request FY 2014-2015 Total Funds	FTE	% Change Over FY 2013-2014 Appropriation
PERSONAL SERVICES							
Continuation Salary Subtotal	4,204,073	68.0	4,887,998	69.3	4,976,661	69.3	
4.5% Base Salary Budget Increase					202,389		
Annual / Sick Leave Payments	3,125		73,330		73,330		
Transit Allowance	111,515		114,240		114,240		
PERA @ 10.15%	404,602		496,344		533,117		
Medicare Tax	57,950		70,906		76,160		
Short Term Disability	6,973		9,152		11,394		
Health, Dental, Life Insurance	355,156		455,537		479,715		
Total Personal Services	5,143,394	68.0	6,107,507	69.3	6,467,006	69.3	5.89%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
1633 Unemployment Compensation	-		10,000		10,000		
1920 Tour Guides - Workstudy	11,053		14,583		14,583		
1920 Contract Services	127,083		78,556		123,556		
2220 Building Maintenance	-		1,555		1,555		
2230 Equipment Maintenance/Repair	4,455		7,797		7,797		
2231 IT Equipment Maintenance/Repair	48,784		54,036		54,036		
2253 Rental of Equipment	6,346		11,751		11,751		
2255 Rental of Office Space	45,403		46,000		46,000		
2258 Parking Fees	22,635		15,680		15,680		
2610 Advertising	319		2,000		2,000		
2630 Communications/Telephone/Fax	43,046		54,985		54,985		
2641 IT - Purchased Service	6,139		11,157		11,157		
2680 Printing/Reproduction Services	3,438		8,860		11,000		
3115 IT Supplies	19,376		48,653		38,653		
3116 Purchased Software	142,708		178,480		180,980		
3120 Books/Periodicals/Subscriptions	3,362		29,144		29,144		
3120 Subscriptions - Lexis Nexis	7,452		8,000		8,000		
3121 Office Supplies	13,168		13,193		15,000		
3123 Postage	1,668		3,000		3,000		
3128 Non Capitalized Equipment	78,050		19,364		79,364		

Department: Legislature Agency: Legislative Council Staff	Actual		Appropriation		Request		% Change Over FY 2013-2014 Appropriation
	FY 2012-2013 Total Funds	FTE	FY 2013-2014 Total Funds	FTE	FY 2014-2015 Total Funds	FTE	
4140 Dues and Memberships	5,011		5,600		6,000		
4180 Official Functions	3,218		5,600		5,600		
4220 Registration / Training Fees	10,229		30,256		30,256		
New Member Orientation	17,773		19,500		20,000		
Total Operating Expenditures	620,716		677,750		780,097		15.10%
TRAVEL EXPENDITURES							
2510 In-State Travel	1,625		6,500		6,500		
2530/2531 Out-State Travel	16,002		25,022		25,022		
Total Travel Expenditures	17,627		31,522		31,522		0.00%
CAPITAL OUTLAY							
6210 IT Equipment Purchase	46,107		90,300		90,300		
6220 Equipment Purchase	-		6,371		6,371		
6810 / 6820 Capital Lease Payments	-		95,000				
Total Capital Outlay	46,107		191,671		96,671		-49.56%
GRAND TOTAL	5,827,844	68.0	7,008,450	69.3	7,375,296	69.3	5.23%
PERA AED (3.8% for 7 months. 4.2% for 5 months)	129,116		171,798		205,435		19.58%
PERA SAED (3.5% for 7 months. 4.0% for 5 months)	110,548		154,538		192,057		24.28%
GRAND TOTAL WITH PERA AED AND SAED	6,067,508		7,334,786		7,772,788		5.97%