

## Legislative Legal Services: "Services" For You That Go Beyond Bill and Amendment Drafting

By Dan Cartin

Legislative Legal Services provides a variety of written materials and services to legislators in addition to their bill and amendment drafting needs. We hope each legislator will become a "power-user" of these ancillary services available from our staff during the 2014 session. Our homepage is located at [http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/olls/index.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/olls/index.htm).

Legislative Legal Services is the General Assembly's nonpartisan legal staff agency. We have a statutory and ethical duty to represent the General Assembly as a whole. And we are obligated to serve the best interests of our institutional client, the General Assembly, as distinguished from the individual interests of any specific legislator. We balance that obligation with our statutory direction to prepare bills, amendments, and other documents for individual legislators and to maintain strict confidentiality when doing so.

In addition to our primary function of drafting bills, resolutions, and amendments, the Legislative Legal Services staff, upon request, can provide you with written materials to assist you in understanding the current state of the law and in explaining your bills. Our attorneys may not always be able to respond quickly to every legislator's request due to the time constraints created by bill and amendment drafting demands. But we will do our best to provide the requested materials to you, time permitting and on a first-come, first-served basis. Examples of ancillary materials available upon special request, time permitting, include:

- Tables comparing bill provisions;
- Explanations of state or federal statutes;
- More detailed, written explanations of bills;
- Summaries of case law relevant to a bill;
- Summaries of case law interpreting a particular statute or issue;
- Legislative histories of issues or bills;
- Legislative histories of constitutional or statutory provisions;
- Summaries of changes made to a bill in committee, in the first house, or in the second house;
- Comparisons of Colorado law with the law of other states on particular issues;
- Lists of all Colorado statutes addressing an issue; and
- Legal opinions regarding legislation.