

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 10-0494	Date: March 17, 2010
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Benefield; Looper Sen. Morse	Bill Status: House SVMA
	Fiscal Analyst: Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

TITLE: CONCERNING POLICY STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue		
State Expenditures General Fund	No Net Change See State Expenditures section	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill repeals all existing interim committees and instead requires that interim legislative studies be conducted by joint committees of reference. A legislator who wishes to have a topic studied during the interim must introduce a joint resolution identifying the issues to be studied and the joint committee that will conduct the study. All such resolutions must be referred to the Legislative Council. The bill authorizes the council to be a committee reference and to take action on resolutions requiring an interim study and on any other legislation allocating legislative staff resources. If the council approves an interim study, it must amend the resolution to allocate a specific number of interim committee days for the study, but no more than 25 interim committee meeting days may be allocated in any given year.

The bill would not affect interim meetings of the Joint Budget Committee, the Capital Development Committee, the Committee on Legal Services, the Legislative Audit Committee, the Executive Committee of Legislative Council, and the Legislative Council. It clarifies that legislative staff will provide staff support for all future interim studies and requires that in-kind donations of services from private organizations be in addition to and not in lieu of the services normally provided by legislative staff.

Finally, the bill specifies the appropriate committees of reference for reports that, under current law, are submitted to statutory interim committees.

State Expenditures

This bill shifts the responsibility for studying issues over the legislative interim, but no net change in state expenditures is expected. In lieu of the current process of establishing new study committees each year to address specific issues, the bill requires that the Legislative Council committee assign issues to joint committees of reference for study during the interim.

The legislature is currently budgeted to pay per diem and reimburse members for travel and other expenses for about 500 interim committee days, but actual costs often vary based on the number of committee meetings that occur each interim and the number of members on each committee. Using an average of 20 members per joint committee, this budget is sufficient to cover the 25 interim committee meeting days that may be allocated by the Legislative Council. Therefore, no significant change in expenditures is expected.

Staff support for most interim committees is provided by the Office of Legislative Legal Services and the Legislative Council Staff, but costs for interim studies are not tracked separately from costs for regular staffing of the legislature. The bill will not change in costs for legislative staff.

Departments Contacted

Legislature