



The Legislative Council will review and prioritize requests made by members and, if approved, assign such requests to the appropriate standing interim committee. If approved by the Executive Committee, the committees must also consider any policies that were requested to be studied by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), the Legislative Audit Committee, or the Office of State Planning and Budgeting.

The bill requires that the Director of the Legislative Council Staff inform the Executive Committee each year how many interim committee meetings may be held within the legislative budget. The Executive Committee then designates how many meetings each standing interim committee may hold. Each committee must meet at least twice per year.

The bill repeals the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC) and the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission and reassigns the work of those entities to the new committees. It also repeals the annual SMART hearings at the commencement of each legislative session. Finally, it changes the strategic planning requirements to require that departments prepare performance plans and performance evaluations that the JBC may use to prioritize requests for new funding that enhance productivity, improve efficiency, reduce costs, and eliminate waste. Amendments adopted in the House of Representative clarify how the requirements apply to the Department of Higher Education and state institutions of higher education.

## **Background**

The SMART Act was first established under HB 10-1119. It set forth new performance-based budgeting requirements for state agencies and implemented a new role in state budgeting for legislative committees of reference.

Under current law, the 18-member Legislative Council is responsible for prioritizing interim studies. The Legislative Department is currently budgeted to support several committees established in statute, and up to 4 additional committees in 2013 that have not yet been prioritized. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet on Friday, April 26, to prioritize 2013 interim studies.

## **State Expenditures**

The bill modifies the SMART Act and the legislative interim committee process, but state expenditures in the aggregate are not expected to change. SMART Act functions that remain unchanged are not discussed here.

*State Agencies.* The bill modifies some requirements for state agencies, including the Judicial Branch, to prepare strategic and performance plans and other information, report to the legislature, and publish information online. Overall, the bill is not expected to affect state expenditures significantly.

**Legislature.** The bill establishes 7 standing interim committees and specific responsibilities for each committee. It also repeals the TLRC and a pension reform commission and reassigns the work of those entities to the new committees. For 2013, the bill requires that all prioritized bills creating other interim studies must be postponed indefinitely and the tasks reassigned to one of the new standing interim committees.

It is assumed that the bill will not affect the total number of meetings held during the interim, or the overall level of staff assistance required for interim committees. This assumption is based on the fact that 2 interim committees are repealed, none of the 4 interim studies budgeted for 2013 have been set, and the number of meetings is limited to those that can be supported within the legislative budget.

Each committee may appoint up to 2 task forces to study specific policy issues and give advice to the committee. Task force members serve without compensation of any kind. This fiscal note assumes that legislative staff will not provide staff support to any task force, although a task force may accept a donation of in-kind services from a nonprofit organization in fulfilling its duties.

### **Departments Contacted**

All Departments