

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 11

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .184103.2

Short Title: Reform Interim Committee Process

Sponsor(s): Senator Tim Eichenberg

Analyst: David Harrell

Date: February 17, 2011

Bill Summary:

SJM 11 requests that the Legislative Council begin to reform the interim committee process in 2011. Among its provisions, SJM 11 resolves:

- that the Legislature appoint members only to 19 specific interim committees, among them:
 - the Legislative Council;
 - the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC);
 - the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC);
 - a government restructuring task force;
 - an Indian affairs committee; and
 - the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force;
- that the co-chairs of the Legislative Council and the chairs and vice chairs of the LESC and the LFC, along with several other designated legislators, develop a plan to divide among those three committees the various topics to be examined during the interim; and
- that the directors of the Legislative Council Service (LCS), the LESC, and the LFC develop and present to the Legislative Council a proposal to jointly staff the interim committees in an effective and efficient manner.

Fiscal Impact:

As a memorial, SJM 11 does not contain an appropriation.

Substantive Issues:

Among its premises, SJM 11 states that, during the 2010 interim, the Government Restructuring Task Force (see “Background,” below) had noted the potential for cost savings and efficiencies

in the legislative branch of government but did not have time to study proposed reforms, recommending instead that the successor to the task force “take up that job.”

Background:

Legislation enacted in 2010 (HB 237a, or Laws 2010, Chapter 101, with emergency clause) created the Government Restructuring Task Force (GRTF), a 17-member body that was charged to examine all of state government and to make recommendations leading to increased efficiencies and reduced costs.

Among its more specific duties, GRTF was directed to:

- study “the current resources of the state’s agencies, programs, services, funding and policies and the public needs served by them”;
- study the recommendations, initiatives, and statutory changes that occurred between 1975 and 1978 in reorganizing state government;
- examine “the statutes, constitutional provisions, rules and court decisions governing state government and reorganization and recommend legislation or changes”; and
- solicit public input.

The membership of the task force comprised:

- five House members appointed by the Speaker of the House and five Senate members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in both cases so that the two major political parties in each house have the same proportional representation on the task force as in the respective house;
- six public members who possess expertise in public and private sector organizational structure and who reflect the ethnic, cultural, and geographic diversity of the state, three appointed by the Speaker of the House and three by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
- the Secretary of Finance and Administration.

In addition to these members prescribed by law, the task force included eight advisory members: four representatives and four senators, appointed by the leader of each house, respectively.

Among its other provisions, the legislation:

- required the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and “the various agencies of the state” to cooperate with the task force “and provide the task force with information regarding budget, staffing, organizational structure and other information” as requested; and
- required the LCS, the LFC, the LESC, and DFA to provide the staff for the task force.

Finally, beginning with its first meeting in April 2010, GRTF met at least once each month during the interim to hear a wide variety of testimony and to consider recommendations for legislation during the 2011 session.

Related Bills:

SB 15 *Health Policy & Finance Dept. Act*
SB 158 *Repeal Certain Boards & Commissions*
SB 162 *Health Administration & Finance Consolidation*
*SB 408 *Create Interim Redistricting Committee*
SJM 15a *Interim Film Investment Committee*
SR 2 *Change Senate Conversation Committee Name*
HB 37 *Legislative Human Services Committee*
HB 48 *Cultural Properties Review Committee Duties*
HB 66a *Transfer Depts. & Services to DFA*
HB 88 *Executive Branch Entity Sunsets*
HB 94 *Health Policy & Finance Dept. Act*
*HB 130 *Extend Government Restructuring Task Force*
*HB 332 *Create Interim Redistricting Committee*
HJM 34 *Higher Education Interim Committee*
HR 1 *Appointments to Committees by Caucuses*