

State of Colorado
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:
Responsibilities and Procedures



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Dear Legislative Council members:

As Director of the Legislative Council Staff, I take pride in the opportunity to offer this guide to the Legislative Council's duties and responsibilities. The leadership of the Legislative Council is established through the variety of responsibilities it undertakes during both the legislative session and the legislative interim.

The main section of this booklet is organized into four sections. The first section describes the establishment and organization of the Legislative Council. The second section sets forth the Legislative Council's primary responsibilities during the legislative session, while the third part describes its duties during the interim. Finally, a fourth section lists miscellaneous functions and duties that fall outside of the scope of those already discussed. In addition, two appendices are provided: Appendix A containing the rules of the Legislative Council; and Appendix B describing the responsibilities of the Legislative Council Staff.

I hope that you find this booklet useful, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Mlinek

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Quick Facts to Know About the Legislative Council

- The 18-member Legislative Council is comprised of nine Senators and nine Representatives, including the six members of the Executive Committee.
- The Legislative Council elects a chair and vice-chair annually.
- A quorum of the Legislative Council is nine members.
- The Legislative Council is not a committee of reference.
- The Legislative Council must meet at least quarterly.
- The Legislative Council reviews the Legislative Council Staff budget annually.
- Duties of the Legislative Council include reviewing and prioritizing interim study committees each spring.
- State statutes direct the Legislative Council to review a ballot analysis prepared by the Legislative Council Staff at a public hearing.
- The Legislative Council reviews interim committee recommendations no later than October 15 in even-numbered years and no later than November 15 in odd-numbered years.
- The Legislative Council has its own rules.

The Legislative Council

Establishment and Composition

Colorado statutes establish the Legislative Council as a body of 18 Senators and Representatives with specific functions and responsibilities (Part 3 of Article 3 of Title 2, C.R.S.). The President of the Senate appoints six Senators, who must be approved by a majority of the Senate; the Speaker of the House appoints six Representatives, who must be approved by a majority of the House. The leadership of the Senate and the House — the Senate President, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader, and the House Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader — comprise the remaining six Council members.

The Executive Committee

The six members of leadership who serve on the Legislative Council are the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee chairmanship alternates every year between the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. In years in which the President or Speaker does not serve as chair, he or she serves as vice-chair. The Executive Committee holds separate meetings and includes among its duties the oversight of the legislative service agencies and their directors, establishment of policies regarding legislative management and legislative procedures, and introduction of an annual legislative appropriation bill. In addition, the Executive Committee exercises legislative management functions when the General Assembly is not in session and may set the date for the convening of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

Chairmanship and Organization of Legislative Council

The chair and vice-chair of the Legislative Council are elected from among Council members. The Legislative Council must meet at least once quarterly during the calendar year, but may meet as often as it deems necessary. The Council may prescribe its own rules of procedure; however, nine members are considered a quorum, and a majority of the quorum is required to act on any matter before the Council; except that a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire Legislative Council (12 members) is required to make changes to the ballot analysis prepared by Legislative Council Staff (*Section 1-40-124.5 (1.7), C.R.S.*).

Legislative Council members are paid \$99 per day for attendance at a meeting of the Legislative Council when the General Assembly is not in session or is in recess for more than three days (*Section 2-2-307 (3), C.R.S.*). In addition, members are reimbursed for necessary expenses in connection with their Council duties.

Appointments and Vacancies

Appointments and reappointments to the Legislative Council must be made by the President and the Speaker within ten days of the convening of the first regular session of each general assembly. Council membership terminates with the end of each member's term of office, or with the appointment of a member's successor, whichever occurs sooner. Membership vacancies are filled in the same manner as original appointments. Party representation on the Council must be in general proportion to the party membership in each house of the General Assembly. In all cases, the minority party must be represented on the Council by at least one Senator and at least two Representatives.

Legislative Council Responsibilities - Session

The Legislative Council usually meets on two occasions during the legislative session. Early in the session the Legislative Council reviews the Legislative Council Staff budget. The Legislative Council also meets during the latter part of the session to review resolutions or bills seeking to create interim studies. The potential also exists that the Legislative Council may need to meet to review modifications to state implementation plans relating to air quality.

Review of the Legislative Council Staff Budget

In its role as the oversight committee for the Legislative Council Staff, the Legislative Council reviews and approves the staff budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Legislative Council's review typically takes place in January so the legislative budget bill can be introduced in early February. After review by the Legislative Council, the staff's budget is submitted to the Executive Committee, along with the budget requests of the House and Senate and other staff agencies, for its approval. The Executive Committee prepares and introduces the legislative appropriation bill each year (*Section 2-3-303 (2) (b) and (c), C.R.S.*).

Prioritization of Interim Study Proposals

The Legislative Council reviews and prioritizes proposals for interim study committees each spring, with the Executive Committee authorized to create any additional study committees after adjournment of the legislative session. State law outlining the responsibilities of the two committees is as follows:

2-3-303.3. Interim Studies. The legislative council . . . shall meet during the regular session each year for the purpose of reviewing and prioritizing bills and joint resolutions that create or authorize any studies to be conducted during the interim or that allocate any additional legislative staff resources during the interim. After the general assembly has adjourned, if issues are brought to the attention of the executive committee of the legislative council and the executive committee determines that the issues are appropriate for being addressed by an interim study and are the result of changed circumstances or new circumstances, the executive committee of the legislative council may provide for the conduct of additional interim studies by adopting a resolution.

Joint Rule 24A establishes a procedure whereby any bill or resolution that creates a committee, commission, or task force that operates during the interim and requires funding from the legislative budget or legislative staff resources must be sent from the committee of reference to the Legislative Council for review and prioritization. The Legislative Council meets in April — shortly after the 100th day (the deadline for introducing resolutions) — to review and prioritize any such bills and resolutions. The committees of reference to which the bills or resolutions have been assigned are notified of which measures have been prioritized and therefore will have their fiscal impact covered through the legislative appropriation bill.

The Executive Committee has the latitude to approve additional interim committees if new or changed circumstances arise after the General Assembly adjourns. In these cases, the Executive Committee can approve new interim studies by adopting a resolution.

Review of State Implementation Plans (SIPs)

The Legislative Council is required to review modifications to State Implementation Plans (SIPs) if a member of the General Assembly submits a written request for such a review to the chair of the Council. A SIP is a plan to improve air quality in a geographic area that does not meet federal air quality requirements. By January 15 of each year, the Air Quality Control Commission's proposed modifications to SIPs must be submitted to the chair of the Legislative Council (and made available to all members of the General Assembly). In order for a SIP modification to be on the Legislative Council agenda, a member of the General Assembly must submit a request for Legislative Council review by February 15.

Once a request is submitted, the chair of the Legislative Council must schedule a hearing forthwith to conduct the review. The purpose of the Council review is to determine whether the SIP modification accomplishes the results intended by law. Based on its review, the Council may elect to recommend legislation. If the Legislative Council does not recommend legislation, the member has the option of introducing legislation. In these cases, the member must notify the chair of his or her intent to introduce a bill within three days of the Council's decision not to recommend legislation. SIP modifications that are not the subject of Legislative Council review can be submitted by the Air Quality Control Commission to the Environmental Protection Agency on February 15 (*Section 25-7-133, C.R.S.*).

Legislative Council Responsibilities - Interim

Two Legislative Council responsibilities dominate its interim agenda. The first responsibility involves review of the ballot information booklet at a late August or early September meeting. The second responsibility, undertaken in October or November, concerns a review of interim committee recommendations for legislation.

Review of the Ballot Information Booklet

Following preparation of an analysis of each statewide ballot issue by Legislative Council Staff each summer, the Legislative Council is directed to review the analyses at a public hearing (*Section 2-3-303 (1) (g), C.R.S.*). In addition to the statutory and constitutional provisions requiring the Legislative Council Staff to prepare and distribute the ballot information booklet to all registered voter households in the state, the Legislative Council has adopted its own rule regarding preparation, approval, and distribution of the booklet (*Legislative Council Rule XIV*). This rule establishes the following procedures:

- Publication of notices to solicit involvement of proponents, opponents, and interested persons with regard to the drafting of the analyses;
- Distribution by Legislative Council Staff of preliminary drafts of each ballot analysis and consideration of comments from interested parties;
- Distribution of each ballot analysis final draft to proponents, opponents, and interested persons, with a requirement that proposed amendments be submitted in writing at least 15 days prior to the Legislative Council meeting;

- Distribution of ballot analysis materials to Legislative Council members prior to its meeting;
- Establishment by the Legislative Council chair of public testimony procedures; and
- Consideration by the Legislative Council of each ballot analysis, proposed amendments, and public testimony at its meeting.

A two-thirds affirmative vote of the Legislative Council (12 members) is required to amend the Legislative Council Staff's draft of the ballot information booklet (*Section 1-40-124.5 (1.7), C.R.S.*). In order to facilitate its deliberations, Legislative Council members are provided notebooks documenting the public input and staff review that went into the booklet. The meeting is held in late August or early September to allow time for printing the ballot information booklet. The Colorado Constitution requires distribution of the booklet to all registered voter households in the state at least 30 days prior to the election (*Article V, Section 1 (7.5)*).

Review of Interim Committee Recommendations

The Legislative Council also has responsibility for approving the recommendations of the interim committees each fall. Specifically, the Legislative Council must approve bills being recommended by interim committees in order for the bills to be exempt from the sponsors' bill limit. Additional entities may be created to participate in the bill limit exemption process as specified by law. Traditionally, the Council has considered whether legislative recommendations made by an interim committee fit under the committee's charge. Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D) requires that the Legislative Council approve interim committee bills no later than October 15 in even-numbered years and no later than November 15 in odd-numbered years. Joint

Rule 24 provides several other guidelines for approval of interim bills:

- The number of bills that can be recommended by an interim committee is limited to eight;
- Interim committee bills must have a prime sponsor in order to be approved by the Legislative Council;
- An interim committee bill need not be sponsored by a legislator who served on the committee; and
- Interim committee bills do not count toward a legislator's five-bill limit.

Other Functions and Duties

Powers and Functions

In addition to its legislative session and interim responsibilities, Colorado law assigns the following additional powers and functions to the Legislative Council:

- √ Collection of information concerning the government and general welfare of the state (*Section 2-3-303 (1)(a), C.R.S.*);
- √ Examination of the effects of state constitutional provisions and statutes with the authority to recommend modifications (*Section 2-3-303 (1)(b), C.R.S.*);
- √ Encouragement of interstate cooperation through joint governmental agencies such as the Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures and through cooperation with federal, state, and local governments (*Section 2-3-311 (1) and (2), C.R.S.*);
- √ Preparation and filing census maps with the Secretary of State depicting congressional districts and legislative districts (*Sections 2-1-101 (7), 2-2-107, and 2-2-205, C.R.S.*); and
- √ Apportionment every ten years of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) districts based on new census data if the RTD Board of Directors fails to apportion districts by March 15 of the second year following a census (*Section 32-9-111 (1), C.R.S.*).

Director of Research

The Director of Research reports to the Legislative Council. In the event of a vacancy, the Legislative Council conducts interviews for the Director of Research position and makes a recommendation to the Executive Committee (*Section 2-3-304 (1), C.R.S.*). The Executive Committee formally appoints the Director of Research, as it does all legislative service agency directors pursuant to *Section 2-3-303 (3) (d), C.R.S.* In addition to duties pertaining to the "administrative direction of the Council," the Director of Research hires and oversees the Legislative Council Staff (*Section 2-3-304 (1) and (2), C.R.S.*).

Receipt of Reports

State statutes set forth the following requirements for the receipt of specified reports by the Legislative Council:

- √ Recommendations from the Director of the Division of Employment and Training regarding a proposed unemployment tax rate decrease whenever the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Fund reaches a specified level (*Section 8-76-103 (3)(b)(V), C.R.S.*);
- √ A monthly project status report and a monthly population and capacity report from the Department of Corrections (*Section 17-1-104.3 (5), C.R.S.*);
- √ An annual report from the Division of Administration in the Department of Public Health and Environment on the adequacy of funding for source attribution and apportionment studies, when such studies are required. If funding is inadequate, the Council may recommend that the General Assembly appropriate funds from available sources (*Section 25-7-1006 (2)(e), C.R.S.*); and

- √ An annual report from local governments regarding the number of reports to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office regarding criminal arrestees who are believed to be illegally present in the United States (*Section 29-29-103 (2), C.R.S.*).

Appendix A

Rules of the Legislative Council

Rules I. Meetings

(1) The Council shall meet not less frequently than once in each quarter of the calendar year. Pursuant to the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Council shall meet no later than October 15 in even-numbered years and no later than November 15 in odd-numbered years for the purpose of receiving recommendations by interim Legislative Council committees and all other committees created by statute or resolution which operate during the legislative interim. In addition, the Council shall meet at such other times as may be determined by the Council or chairman.

(2) All meetings shall be held at the State Capitol in Denver, Colorado, unless otherwise determined by the Council or by the chairman.

Rule II. Election of Chairman - Duties

The Council shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from its membership at the first meeting held in each odd-numbered year. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall perform the duties hereinafter set forth. In the absence of the chairman or in case of his inability to act, the vice-chairman shall preside and perform the required duties.

Rule III. Meetings Open to Public - Rules of Order

Except when meeting in executive session, all meetings of the Council shall be open to the public. All proceedings in matters covered by these rules shall be conducted in accordance herewith, otherwise in accordance with the latest edition of *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*.

Rule IV. Quorum

Nine members shall constitute a quorum. Except to adjourn to the next day or to a later time on the same day, no action shall be taken by the Council except by the affirmative vote of five members, or if more than nine members be present, then by a majority of those members present.

Rule V. Functions of Council and Executive Committee

(1) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in law, the Council shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To collect information concerning the government and general welfare of the state;
- (b) To examine the effects of constitutional provisions and statutes and recommend desirable alterations;
- (c) To consider important issues of public policy and questions of statewide interest;
- (d) 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;
- (e) To expend moneys or authorize the expenditure of moneys to accomplish the functions contained in this rule out of moneys appropriated to the Council by the General Assembly;

- (f) To approve bills recommended by interim Legislative Council committees or other committees created by statute or resolution which operate during the interim;
- (g) To approve the ballot analysis of initiated measures and referred measures prepared by the staff of the Council.

(2) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in law, the Executive Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To consider, recommend, and establish policies relating to legislative management and legislative procedures, including but not limited to deadlines for the legislative session, guidelines on the format of bills, allocation of space in the State Capitol for legislative purposes, and lobbying practices;
- (b) To consider and approve the budget requests from the legislative service agency directors for the legislative service agencies;
- (c) To prepare and introduce the legislative appropriation bill each year;
- (d) To establish policies about the retention of records by the legislative service agencies of the General Assembly, including the retention of records relating to legislative review of rules and regulations promulgated by executive branch agencies pursuant to Section 24-4-103, C.R.S.

(3) In addition to the powers and duties specified in (2) of this rule, the Executive Committee of the Council shall annually approve a salary pay range to be used in setting the salaries of the legislative service agency directors.

- (a) The Legislative Audit Committee, the Joint Budget Committee, the Legislative Council, and the Committee on Legal Services shall each submit an annual report to the Executive Committee evaluating the performance of the legislative service agency director under such committee's supervision.
- (b) Upon review of the reports received pursuant to (3) (a) of this rule, the Executive Committee shall evaluate the performance of legislative service agency directors and determine the salaries to be paid thereto.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall appoint legislative service agency directors, other than the State Auditor, after receiving recommendations thereon from the respective committees.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall consult with the Legislative Audit Committee concerning the appointment of a State Auditor before the Legislative Audit Committee places the names of candidates before the General Assembly in accordance with Section 2-3-101 (3) (a).
- (e) The Executive Committee shall annually approve salary pay ranges to be used in determining the salaries of the staffs of legislative service agencies. Legislative service agency directors shall determine the salaries to be paid to their respective staffs in accordance with such pay ranges; except that employees of the office of the State Auditor who are within the state personnel system shall be paid in accordance with article 50 of title 24, C.R.S. Each legislative service agency director shall file a report annually with the Executive Committee setting forth the salaries paid to their respective staffs.

- (f) Any Senator or Representative or any legislative committee may provide the Executive Committee or any legislative service agency director with information or recommendations concerning pay ranges or performance evaluations for legislative service agency directors or the staffs of legislative service agencies.
- (g) As used in this subsection (3), unless the context otherwise requires:
- (I) "Legislative service agencies" means the Office of the State Auditor, the Joint Budget Committee, the Legislative Council, and the Office of Legislative Legal Services.
- (II) "Legislative service agency director" means the State Auditor, the staff Director of the Joint Budget Committee, the Director of Research of the Legislative Council, and the Director of the Office of Legislative Legal Services.

(4) The Executive Committee has the power and responsibility to perform legislative management functions when the General Assembly is not in session.

Rule VI. Committees - Appointments - Study Resolution

(1) There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the President of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, all of whom shall be ex officio members of the Council. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall alternately serve as the chairman and vice-chairman of the Executive Committee and shall serve for two-year terms. All ex officio members of the Council shall have and exercise all

the powers, privileges, and duties of other members. The Executive Committee shall meet upon call of the chairman.

(2) The Council shall meet during the regular session each year not later than April 15 for the purpose of making recommendations, in the form of a joint resolution, of any studies to be conducted during the interim. If the study resolution is not adopted by the end of the regular session, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council shall determine the interim studies and shall provide for the conduct of such interim studies by resolution adopted by the Executive Committee no later than the first Monday in June.

(3) Members shall be appointed to Council interim committees as provided by the study resolution or by the Executive Committee resolution as appropriate. In addition, subcommittees established by the Council pursuant to Section 2-3-302 (1), C.R.S., shall be appointed by the chairman and vice-chairman of the Executive Committee from their respective houses.

(4) The chairman of the Council shall be an ex officio member, without authority to vote, of all committees appointed by the Council and as such shall be entitled to the payment of his expenses from the Council funds in accordance with Rule No. XII.

Rule VII. Roll Call - When Requested

Roll call shall be taken on any question upon demand of one member.

Rule VIII. Action - How Taken

The sentiment of the Council shall be expressed in the form of a resolution duly adopted; its will or recommendation with respect to any research study, report, or proposed legislation shall be expressed in the form of a proposal with its recommendations with respect thereto duly adopted.

Rule IX. Hearings - Exercise of Power to Take Testimony

(1) The Council and any committee thereof may conduct hearings at which witnesses may be required to testify under oath. The chairman of the Council and the respective chairmen of its committees shall have authority to administer the oath to witnesses. Evidence taken may be either oral or written. The Council may require statements to be filed in advance of hearings.

(2) The Council and its committees may require the attendance of witnesses at such hearings and the production of records and documents by subpoena duces tecum, or otherwise; such subpoena duces tecum shall be issued under the hand of the chairman of the Council or the chairmen of its committees only after authorization by majority vote of the Council or of the committee, as the case may be. Witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the Council shall receive the same fees and expenses as witnesses in civil cases.

(3) In the course of examination of a witness, questions shall be limited only to the requirement of relevancy and materiality to the subject of inquiry. The chairman of the Council or the respective chairmen of its committees may designate the Director of Research, or professional counsel, to question the witness, but no member of the Council or its committees shall be denied the right to examine a witness, the chairman, only, having the right to rule on the order of examination and the relevancy and materiality of the questions.

(4) The chairman of the Council and the respective chairmen of its committees shall have authority to apply to appropriate courts of record for the enforcement of these powers.

Rule X. Report of Council

The recommendations and findings of the Council shall be sent to each member of the General Assembly, to the Governor, and to the state library, at least thirty days prior to any regular session of the General Assembly, or at such other times as the Council deems necessary, or as requested by the General Assembly.

Rule XI. Compensation of Personnel - Approval of Vouchers

The Director of Research shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. All vouchers shall be approved by the chairman or vice-chairman of the Council.

Rule XII. Mileage and Expenses of Members

Members of the Council and members of the committees created by the Council shall be paid the legislative per diem rate and shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses, as provided by Section 2-2-307, C.R.S., incurred in attendance at scheduled committee meetings.

Rule XIII. Amendment of Rules

These rules may be amended, added to, subtracted from, or suspended by a vote of the majority of Council members present.

Rule XIV. Preparation, Approval and Distribution of Ballot Analysis Booklet

(1) Each year the Legislative Council shall adopt deadlines for the preparation, approval and distribution of the Ballot Analysis Booklet. The deadlines shall consist of dates established for completion of the steps delineated in this rule. Such deadlines shall be adopted by the Legislative Council for each measure for which an analysis is to be drafted. Deadlines shall be strictly observed by all parties. Deadlines may be modified by the director of research in extraordinary circumstances. Deadlines shall be established for the following steps (a-g).

- a) Publication of legal notices to solicit involvement from proponents, opponents and interested persons on measures for which analyses will be drafted.
- b) Production and distribution of preliminary drafts of each ballot analysis. Legislative Council staff, at its discretion, may require comments from opponents, proponents and interested persons on preliminary drafts to be submitted in writing, and may furnish such comments to all parties of interest. Preliminary drafts of the ballot analyses and any written comments received shall be considered public records open for public inspection pursuant to Section 24-72-201 et seq., C.R.S.
- c) Furnishing final drafts to proponents, opponents and interested persons. Proponents, opponents and interested parties are encouraged to submit any comments on the final draft in writing but are required to submit any proposed amendments to the draft in writing at least 15 days prior to the legislative council hearing.
- d) Distribution of a packet of materials for members of the Legislative Council which shall include the final draft ballot analyses, any written comments and/or

proposed amendments from proponents, opponents and interested persons received by the deadline, and any staff comments on the written submissions made by the proponents, opponents and interested persons.

- e) Consideration by the Legislative Council of the final drafts, any proposed amendments, and testimony in a public hearing held pursuant to Section 1-40-124.5, C.R.S. In order to provide for an orderly and efficient hearing and expedite the workload of Legislative Council, the Chair may encourage persons interested in testifying to sign up at least 5 days prior to the hearing. The chair of the Legislative Council may establish such other procedures and rules for testimony as are appropriate to ensure fairness and facilitate the Legislative Council's deliberations.
- f) Final date for publication in newspapers of ballot titles and text (set by constitution).
- g) Distribution of the ballot analysis booklet to all registered voter households at least 30 days prior to the election. Distribution of the ballot analysis booklet shall be done in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(2) All deadlines are effective as of 5:00 p.m. on the date specified.

(3) Legislative Council staff shall consider all comments and/or proposed amendments submitted on or before the deadlines for preliminary drafts, but shall use its discretion when incorporating changes to the ballot analyses.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Legislative Council to conduct a fair and impartial review of each final draft ballot analysis. Any changes made to the final drafts must be approved by the Legislative Council.

Appendix B

Legislative Council Staff: Duties and Responsibilities

Director of Research

Upon the recommendation of the Legislative Council, the Executive Committee appoints a Director of Research, who provides administrative direction to the Legislative Council and serves as director of the Legislative Council Staff. The Director of Research is responsible to the Council for the "collection and assembling of all data and for the preparation of reports, recommendations, and bills" (*Section 2-3-304 (1), C.R.S.*). The statutory duties and responsibilities of the Legislative Council Staff comprise the discussion below.

Staffing and Support Duties

The Legislative Council Staff provides assistance and support to standing and interim committees of the General Assembly, as well as other committees and task forces as may be designated. Specific duties outlined in statute include staff support to the following committees:

- the Colorado State Officials' Compensation Commission (*Section 2-3-806, C.R.S.*);
- committees conducting sunset reviews (*Section 2-3-1202, C.R.S.*);
- the Capital Development Committee (*Section 2-3-1306, C.R.S.*);
- any joint legislative oversight committee conducting a review of a principal department (*Section 2-7-104 (1), C.R.S.*);

- the Legislative Oversight Committee and Task Force for the Continuing Examination of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems (*Sections 18-1.9-103 and 18-1.9-104, C.R.S.*);
- the State Capitol Building Advisory Committee (*Section 24-82-108 (4), C.R.S.*);
- the Legislative Oversight Committee on State and Veterans Nursing Homes (*Section 26-12-304 (2), C.R.S.*);
- the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission (*Section 31-31-1001, C.R.S.*); and
- the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (*Section 43-2-145, C.R.S.*).

The Initiative Process

The Legislative Council Staff has constitutional and statutory duties in regard to ballot measures that are referred or initiated by citizen petition pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the Colorado Constitution and Article 40 of Title 1, C.R.S. Specifically, Legislative Council Staff is directed to:

- review and comment on citizen initiative filings in conjunction with the Office of Legislative Legal Services (*Section 1-40-105, C.R.S.*);
- conduct a public meeting at which the director and other members of the legislative staff have the opportunity to ask questions that arise in response to the written comments received in preparation of a ballot analysis draft (*Section 1-40-124.5 (1.7), C.R.S.*);

- prepare and distribute a ballot information booklet to all registered voter households statewide (*Section 1-40-124.5, C.R.S.*); and
- publish the title and text of each initiated or referred measure and the text of each referred or initiated question on the statewide ballot in at least one legal publication of general circulation in each county in the state (*Section 1-40-124 (1), C.R.S.*).

Forecasting and Fiscal Analysis

Legislative Council Staff undertakes fiscal analysis and other forecasting duties as designated in the following statutes:

- preparation of fiscal notes (*Section 2-2-322, C.R.S.*);
- review of criminal sentencing legislation for the purpose of providing the General Assembly with fiscal impact information (*Section 2-2-701 (3), C.R.S.*);
- forecasting of the adult and juvenile offender populations within the criminal justice system in the state (*Section 2-3-304 (4), C.R.S.*);
- establishment of a pilot program for development of a dynamic model to analyze the economic impact of bills if sufficient funds become available pursuant to law (*Section 2-3-304.5, C.R.S.*);
- calculation of State Education Fund revenues, in consultation with the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (*Section 22-55-103 (2) (a), C.R.S.*);

- review of the model used to forecast revenues in and expenditures from the State Education Fund and the spending requirements under the School Finance Act (*Section 22-55-104 (3), C.R.S.*);
- provision of annual state revenue estimates to the General Assembly (*Section 24-75-201.3 (1), C.R.S.*);
- certification, when applicable, that sufficient excess state revenues exist to proceed with or implement the TABOR refund mechanism that reduces motor vehicle registration fees (*Section 24-75-216, C.R.S.*); and
- for each fiscal year that the state retains and spends state revenues pursuant to Referendum C, preparation of an excess state revenues legislative report (*Section 24-77-103.6, C.R.S.*).

Program Review

Several statutory provisions set forth program review responsibilities for Legislative Council Staff, as follows:

- review and evaluation of any tobacco settlement programs in conjunction with the Joint Budget Committee Staff, the Office of Legislative Legal Services, and the Department of Public Health and Environment (*Section 2-3-113 (4), C.R.S.*);
- certification of the cost-of-living factor for each school district in the state every two years (*Section 22-54-104 (5)(c)(III), C.R.S.*); and
- contracting for a property tax assessment study during each property tax year (*Section 39-1-104 (16), C.R.S.*).

Accounting and Compensation

The Legislative Council Staff oversees a centralized legislative accounting system pursuant to Section 2-3-310, C.R.S. In addition, the Director of Research approves payroll and per diem vouchers for member reimbursement (Section 2-2-307 (4), C.R.S.).

Receipt of Reports

The Legislative Council Staff maintains a legislative library and receives the following reports and data pursuant to statute:

- criminal justice information and statistics compiled by the state court administrator (Section 13-3-101, C.R.S.);
- population projections and research data from the Executive Director of the Department of Corrections (Section 17-1-103, C.R.S.);
- annual reports of the Colorado Cooperative Extension Service (Section 23-34-106, C.R.S.);
- population projections and research data from the Division of Criminal Justice (Section 24-33.5-503, C.R.S.);
- information coordinated as part of the economic development central information system for general public use (Section 24-46.1-101, C.R.S.);
- any exclusions to permit conditions for open burning from the Division of Administration in the Department of Public Health and Environment (Section 25-7-123 (1)(c), C.R.S.); and

- population projections and research data concerning charitable, mental, custodial, and special educational public institutions operated by the state from the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services (Section 27-1-103, C.R.S.).