



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

July 12, 2017

**TO:** Members of the County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee

**FROM:** Julia Jackson, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4788  
Chris Creighton, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-5834  
Juliann Jenson, Research Analyst, 303-866-3264

**SUBJECT:** Charge and Membership of the County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee

**Summary**

This memorandum provides an overview of the County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee, including the charge of the committee, the committee membership, the bill limits, the bill request deadlines applicable to the committee, and information about the committee staff and website.

**Origin and Charge of the Committee**

The County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Request Letter 2017-15, as approved by the Legislative Council on April 28, 2017. The committee is charged with studying the following policy issues:

- the current cost of maintaining and staffing county courthouses, jail facilities, and justice centers in each county;
- the current availability of state resources to aid in the funding of county courthouse facilities, including the Underfunded Courthouse Cash Fund and the Courthouse Security Cash Fund;
- the current availability of state resources to aid in the funding of, and overcrowding issues in, county jail facilities;
- approaches to increasing state funds for county courthouses and jails, including the creation or alteration of grant programs for courthouse and jail construction, maintenance, and staffing;
- reforms in sentencing, probation, or parole policies that encourage the use of county jail facilities in place of Department of Corrections facilities or diversion programs; and
- approaches to addressing the growing problems of heroin and prescription opiate addiction and mental health issues that result in growing jail populations, including those of drug courts, mental health courts, rehabilitation efforts, and other diversion methods.

## Committee Membership

There are six members on the County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee. The chair was appointed by the President of the Senate and the vice-chair by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The six legislators appointed to the interim study committee include:

Senator Don Coram, Chair  
Senator Larry Crowder  
Senator Rhonda Fields

Representative Adrienne Benavidez, Vice Chair  
Representative Susan Beckman  
Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet

## Meeting Dates

The committee has been approved to meet up to five times during the 2017 interim. The committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting on July 17, 2017. Additional meetings will be held on July 31, August 21, September 11, and October 23, 2017.

## Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

**Bill limits.** The committee may report up to five bills to the Legislative Council. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session.

**Requirements for bill drafts.** Committee members must request bills during a single committee meeting set for requesting legislation. If the request is approved by a majority of the committee, the request is submitted to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) for drafting. The last day for the committee to request bills is September 22, 2017.

There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which bills are requested and the meeting at which bills are approved. There must be 21 days between the date the bill drafts are finalized with OLLS Staff and the date of the meeting to consider bill drafts to allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analyses of the bill drafts. The last day to finalize bill drafts with OLLS Staff is October 13, 2017, and the committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by November 3, 2017. All proposed interim committee bills must be presented and approved by the Legislative Council prior to the next legislative session.

**Legislative Council review.** The Legislative Council will meet on November 15, 2017, to approve draft legislation. Bills not approved by Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills will count against a member's five-bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.

## Committee Staff and Website

**Staff contacts.** Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please send an email to [pubsafetysolutionscomm.ga@state.co.us](mailto:pubsafetysolutionscomm.ga@state.co.us). You may also contact any of the following individual committee staff members:

- Julia Jackson, Senior Research Analyst, [julia.jackson@state.co.us](mailto:julia.jackson@state.co.us), 303-866-4788

- Chris Creighton, Fiscal Analyst, [chris.creighton@state.co.us](mailto:chris.creighton@state.co.us), 303-866-5834
- Juliann Jenson, Research Analyst, [juliann.jenson@state.co.us](mailto:juliann.jenson@state.co.us), 303-866-3264

Additionally, the following Office of Legislative Legal Services staff will be assisting the committee:

- Richard Sweetman, Senior Attorney, [richard.sweetman@state.co.us](mailto:richard.sweetman@state.co.us), 303-866-4333.

**Website.** Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/county-courthouse-and-county-jail-funding-and-overcrowding-solutions-interim-study>

**Twitter.** Interim committee updates will be also posted on Twitter - @COInterimComm

<https://twitter.com/COInterimComm>