



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 5/23/2016

Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-156

Sponsors

***Senators Scheffel & Guzman
Representatives Duran &
DelGrosso***

Short Title

***Modifications Regarding GA
Oversight Committees***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which becomes effective upon signature of the Governor.

Summary

The bill, ***recommended by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council***, makes the following modifications to appointment procedures to the Legislative Audit Committee, the Committee on Legal Services, and the Legislative Council:

- the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives each appoint two members from their political party to the Legislative Audit Committee and two members to the Committee on Legal Services;
- the President of the Senate appoints Senate majority party members to the Legislative Council and the Senate Minority Leader appoints minority party members;
- the Speaker of the House appoints House majority party members to the Legislative Council, and the House Minority Leader appoints minority party members; and
- the chair and the vice-chair of the Executive Committee of Legislative Council also serve as the chair and vice-chair of the Legislative Council. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate alternate serving one year as the chair and vice-chair of the Legislative Council.

The bill allows for temporary appointments to the Legislative Audit Committee, the Committee on Legal Services, and the Legislative Council.

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Background

Membership appointments to legislative oversight committees. There are four legislative oversight committees for the General Assembly: the Legislative Audit Committee, Legislative Council, Committee on Legal Services, and Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, most members of the Legislative Audit Committee, Legislative Council, and Committee on Legal Services are appointed by the Speaker and the President, and the appointments require approval of a majority of the members of the House and Senate. Appointments to the Legislative Council and Committee on Legal Services must be made within the first 10 days of session; appointments to the Legislative Audit Committee must be made within the first 60 days of session.

Pursuant to state law, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) consists of the chair of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, plus a majority party member and minority party member from each chamber who are also members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. House members of the committee are chosen in the same manner as members of other standing committees; the majority party member is appointed by Speaker and the minority party member by the Minority Leader. These appointments do not require approval of the entire House. In the Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders must appoint to the committee the members who have been elected to the committee by their respective caucuses.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (April 11, 2016). At the hearing, the committee adopted amendment L.001 and referred the bill to the Committee of the Whole and the consent calendar, as amended. In addition to the provisions described on page 1 of this research note, Amendment L.001, a strike-below amendment, reinstated the requirement that the full House and Senate approve the appointment of members of the Legislative Audit Committee, the Legislative Council, and the Committee on Legal Services.

Senate second reading (April 14, 2016). The Senate adopted the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee report and passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

Senate third reading (April 15, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (April 27, 2016). The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the House Legislative Council Committee.

House Legislative Council Committee (April 29, 2016). The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (May 2, 2016). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (May 3, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.