



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Senator Donovan
With support of: Senators Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Jones, and Scott.

Re: Request For Interim Study Committee Regarding Support For Young And Beginning Farmers.

Date: 04/14/2017

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study supporting young and beginning farmers during the interim between the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Young and Beginning Farmers Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied include how state and local policies can better assist aspiring farmers and ranchers in the early stages of their career, while also helping to protect working landscapes, enhancing climate resiliency, meeting growing demands for local food, promoting innovation, and sustaining rural communities and economies. The committee will examine:

- the lack of land access for young and beginning farmers;
- increasing the availability of credit and financial training for beginning farmers;
- increasing business skill training for young farmers, which includes education on regulatory compliance, direct marketing of agriculture products, the establishment of institutional sales, and entrance into emerging markets; and
- increasing access to technical and financial resources to improve farm conservation measures.

The interim study committee would need to meet two times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of six members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

- three members of the House of Representatives, with two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The chair and vice-chair will be appointed upon agreement of the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2017.

The interim study committee will need two bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.