



## *State of Colorado*

### **LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE**

**To:** Legislative Council

**Requested by:** Senator Garcia

**Re:** Request for Interim Study Committee Regarding State and Local Public Safety Solutions

**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 State and local public safety solutions during the interim between the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Interim Study Committee on County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied are:

- 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 increase 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 address 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.

The interim study committee would need to meet five 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 elected by the committee.

The appointments must be made by June 15, 2017.

Nonlegislative members will have a role in the interim study committee. The following entities have critical knowledge and experience in the issues to be studied by the committee, and need to participate in the conversation:

- the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, or his or her designee;
- the Chair of the Colorado Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission, or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Colorado District Attorneys' Council, or his or her designee;
- the Colorado State Public Defender, or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the County Sheriffs of Colorado, or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, or his or her designee;
- a representative of Colorado Counties, Inc., as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- a member of the Underfunded Courthouse Facility Commission within the Judicial Department, as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- a member of the Colorado Court Security Cash Fund Commission, as appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- a representative of a residential treatment center, as appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

Thank you for your consideration of this request.