

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Senator Priola
With support of: Representative(s) Marshall and Parenti; also Senator Jaquez Lewis

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding consolidating and streamlining of Colorado counties and school districts

Date: 4/12/2023

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

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study consolidating and streamlining of Colorado counties and school districts during the interim between the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "County and School District Consolidation Interim Study Committee".

The policy issues to be studied are:

- planning capacities of consolidated local governments to reduce inefficient competition and promote economic development;
- simplification of the regulatory process to lower transaction costs for business activities;
- evaluating regional development projects aimed at expanding tax bases to fund larger (transportation) projects;
- exploring adherence to established cultural boundaries to respect and foster diversity in the state; and
- investigating the cost efficiency of consolidating school districts.

The interim study committee would need to meet 6 times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of 9 members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- 4 members of the Senate, with 2 appointed by the President of the Senate, 1 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and 1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.
- 5 members of the House of Representatives, with 3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, and 1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Nonlegislative members will have a role in the interim study committee, as members of the task force.

A task force is necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above. The task force is responsible for evaluating local fiscal impacts of committee decisions including (but not limited to) collecting data on current county transition costs

and comparing it to projected consolidation-based savings and determining necessary steps and potential outcomes of expanding tax bases. Members would communicate with Colorado agencies and county governments to ensure financial feasibility of any county boundary and /or school district adjustments.

The task force will consist of 5 members from a local government, a school district, the Department of Education, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Governor's Office. The task force will additionally include two legislators, one from each chamber, assigned to the interim committee by the chair of the interim committee.

The interim study committee will need up to 5 bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The following agencies and organizations may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee: the Department of Revenue, County Commissioner offices, Colorado Counties Incorporated, and the Department of Education.

The interim study committee would like to conduct 1 meeting outside of the Denver metropolitan area to increase accessibility for counties in Southern Colorado to participate without the burden of extensive travel.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.