



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

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Memorandum

July 3, 2024

TO: Members of the Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee

FROM: Adam Alemzada, Research Analyst, 303-866-2205
Juliann Jenson, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-3264
Samantha Falco, Research Analyst, 303-866-4794
Shukria Maktabi, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4720

SUBJECT: Committee Charge Memo

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee (committee), including the origin and charge of the committee, membership, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff and the committee website.

Origin and Charge of the Committee

The committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Request Letter [2024-04](#) and may meet up to four times during the 2024 interim. The committee is charged with studying cell phone connectivity in the state with a focus on identifying gaps in cell phone coverage. The areas to examine include:

- major roadways, mountain passes and popular trailheads;
- rural communities;
- historically disadvantaged communities;
- examining whether maps provided by cell phone companies accurately describe coverage areas; and
- determining state tools and resources that may be utilized to minimize gaps in coverage throughout the state.

Committee Membership

Six legislative members and six non-voting members serve on the Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee.

The legislators appointed to the committee are:

Representatives

Representative Meghan Lukens, Chair
Representative Jennifer Bacon
Representative Matt Soper

Senators

Senator Nick Hinrichsen
Senator Rod Pelton
Senator Dylan Roberts

The six non-voting members are to provide industry insight on connectivity and include members who represent the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Transportation, and companies with a presence in the Western Slope, Eastern Plains, and the Denver Metro Area. The nonvoting members are as follows:

- Mike Blank, Director of State Legislative Affairs, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association
- Eddie Castaneda, Director, Network Engineering & Ops, T-Mobile
- Bob Fifer, Deputy Director of Operations, Colorado Department of Transportation
- Kevin Klein, Director, Division of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safe -
- Guillermo Lambarri, Director of External and Legislative Affairs, AT&T
- Eli Veenendaal, Associate General Counsel, Verizon

Meetings

The committee is authorized to meet up to four times and take two field trips during the 2024 interim session. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- **Meeting 1:** Tuesday, July 9, Old State Library;
- **Meeting 2:** Tuesday, August 12, Old State Library;
- **Field Trip 1:** Monday, August 19– Location TBD
- **Meeting 3:** Tuesday, August 20, Old State Library (bill draft request meeting);
- **Field Trip 2:** Tuesday, September 3 – Location TBD; and
- **Meeting 4:** Tuesday, October 1, Old State Library (vote on proposed legislation).

Committee Recommendations

Bill limits and requests. The committee may introduce up to three bills in the 2024 legislative session. Bills approved by the committee do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.

Bill request deadlines. The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2024 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee.

- *August 20:* Last date for meeting to request legislation (committees may request legislation earlier)
- *September 10:* Last day to finalize bill drafts with the Office of Legislative Legal Services

- *October 1*: Last date for meeting to approve final legislation (must be at least 42 days between the hearing to request bills and the one to finalize)

Committee Staff and Website

Committee and fiscal staff contacts. Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities, and providing fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses as requested. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please contact any of the following individual staff members, or CellPhoneStudy@coleg.gov.

- Adam Alemzada, Research Analyst, Adam.alemzada@coleg.gov, 303-866-2205
- Samantha Falco, Research Analyst, Samantha.falco@coleg.gov, 303-866-4794
- Juliann Jenson, Senior Research Analyst, Juliann.jenson@coleg.gov, 303-866-3264
- Shukria Maktabi, Fiscal Analyst, Shukria.maktabi@coleg.gov, 303-866-4720

Legal services staff contacts. Additionally, attorneys at the Office of Legislative Legal Services provide legal and bill drafting assistance to the committee. For assistance in these areas, please contact:

- Clare Haffner, Staff Attorney, Clare.haffner@coleg.gov, 303-866-6137
- Sarah Lozano, Staff Attorney, Sarah.lozano@coleg.gov, 303-866-3858

Website. Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at: <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/cell-phone-connectivity-interim-study-committee/2024-regular-session>