



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

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Memorandum

June 15, 2023

TO: Members of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee

FROM: Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Senior Research & Committee Analyst, 303-866-3028

SUBJECT: Overview of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2023 membership of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee, the charge of the committee, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff analysts and the committee website.

Origin and Charge of the Committee

In 2017, the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Request Letter 2017-02. House Bill 18-1003 continued the committee for two additional legislative interims in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 20-028, which extended the committee for an additional four years and required that it meet every other year beginning in 2021. In 2021, Senate Bill 21-137 made changes to allow the committee to meet during both the 2022 and 2023 interims, but the committee did not end up meeting during the 2022 interim. Finally, House Bill 22-1278 allows the committee to meet up to six times during the 2023 and 2025 interims.

The committee is charged with the following:

- reviewing data, data analytics, and statistics on the scope of the substance use disorder problem in Colorado, including trends in rates of substance abuse, treatment admissions, and deaths from substance use;
- studying the current prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources, including substance abuse prevention outreach and education, available to Coloradans, as well as public and private insurance coverage and other sources of support for treatment and recovery resources;
- reviewing the availability of medication-assisted treatment and whether pharmacists can prescribe those medications through the development of collaborative pharmacy practice agreements with physicians;
- examining what other states and countries are doing to address substance use disorders, including evidence-based best practices and the use of evidence in determining strategies to treat substance use disorders, and best practices on the use of prescription drug monitoring programs;

- identifying the gaps in prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources available to Coloradans and hurdles to accessing those resources;
- identifying possible legislative options to address gaps and hurdles to accessing prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources; and
- examining law enforcement and criminal justice measures, including the prohibition of illegal drugs, penalties for trafficking illegal drugs, diversion, jail-based and prison-based treatment and harm-reduction programs, and technologies and other requirements useful in enforcing laws removing opioid and other illegal substances.

Committee Membership

In total, there are ten members on the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee. In 2023, the chair is appointed by the Speaker of the House and the vice-chair by the President of the Senate.

For the 2023 interim, the ten legislators appointed to the interim study committee include:

Representatives

Representative Chris deGruy Kennedy, Chair
 Representative Ryan Armagost
 Representative Elisabeth Epps
 Representative Mike Lynch
 Representative Mary Young

Senators

Senator Kevin Priola, Vice Chair
 Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
 Senator Kyle Mullica
 Senator Rod Pelton
 Senator Perry Will

Meeting Dates

The committee is authorized to meet up to six times during the 2023 interim. The committee is currently scheduled to meet on the following dates in the 2023 interim:

- Thursday, June 29
- Wednesday, July 19
- Monday, August 7
- Wednesday, August 30 (request bill drafts)
- Wednesday, September 27 (public comment on bill drafts)
- Monday, October 30 (vote on bill drafts)

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits and requests. The committee may recommend up to five bills to the Legislative Council. Committee members must request bills during a single committee meeting set for requesting legislation, and bill requests must be approved by a majority of the committee members.

Bill request deadlines. The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2023 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee. The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by **September 20, 2023**. Committee members must submit drafting information to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) bill drafter within three calendar days

of the meeting at which bills were requested. There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which legislation is requested and the meeting at which it is approved. To allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analysis of the proposal, there must be 21 days between the date the proposed bill is finalized with OLLS staff and the date of the meeting to consider the proposed bills. The last day to finalize bill drafts with OLLS staff is **October 11, 2023**, and the committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by **November 1, 2023**. Bill drafts and fiscal notes will be sent to the committee three days prior to the meeting at which the bills will be approved.

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet on November 15, 2023, to approve interim committee draft legislation. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills would count against a member's five-bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.

Committee Analysts and Website

Committee analyst contacts. Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please send an e-mail to opioidinterimcomm.ga@coleg.gov. You may also contact any of the following individual committee analysts:

- Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Senior Research & Committee Analyst, rachel.kurtz-phelan@coleg.gov, 303-866-3028
- Matthu Beck, Research & Committee Analyst, matthu.beck@coleg.gov, 303-866-2408
- Hamza Syed, Research & Committee Analyst, hamza.syed@coleg.gov, 303-866-4976

Fiscal note staff contact. Legislative Council Staff provides fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses requested by the committee. To discuss the fiscal impact of legislation or to request a fiscal analysis, please contact:

- Kristine McLaughlin, Fiscal Analyst, kristine.mclaughlin@coleg.gov, 303-866-4776

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:

- Yelana Love, Senior Attorney, yelana.love@coleg.gov, 303-866-2295

Website. Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/opioid-and-other-substance-use-disorders-study-committee/2023-regular-session>

Twitter. Committee updates will be also posted on Twitter at:

<https://twitter.com/COInterimComm>