

**Interim Committee Improvement**  
Prepared for the Legislative Council, May 2010

Concept	Status Quo	Options	Cost	Need statutory change?	Decision?
Expand committee size to 12 members	CFHHS - 8 EAIC - 8 ETIC - 8 SAVA - 8 STR - 8 WPIC - 8  ELGIC - 12 LJIC - 12 RTIC - 12 EQC - 16	Change one or more 8-member committees to 12 members.  For 2009-10, 63 Representatives were appointed to interim committees, 2 of whom are serving on 2 and 9 were term-limited in the House. Increasing the six (6) committees to 12 members would allow an additional 24 members to serve.	To increase the six 8-member committees to 12 members would cost approx. \$103,302 for the next biennium.  For example, a biennial cost for 10 meeting days for a 12-member committee would be \$46,663 compared to \$31,940 for 10 meeting days for an 8-member committee.	5-5-211, MCA, provides for 8 and appointment of 1 or 2 add'l members upon request of LC.	
Voting for committees with more House members than Senate members	Current committees are equal numbers of House and Senate members.	1) Each member has one vote. 2) Conference committee-style voting so each chambers' vote is equal: consensus or majority within chamber?	No cost.	No current statutes on voting.	
New Interim Committee		In both 2007 and 2009, there was a proposal to amend the education and Local Government Interim Committee to an Education Interim Committee and a Local Government Committee	Each additional 8 member committee costs approx. \$31,940  Each additional 12 member committee costs approx. \$46,663  Costs do not include contract secretary costs, if necessary.	5-5-224, MCA.	
Use Standing Committees to organize/appoint Interim Committees	(See Attachment A)	Change the composition of interim committees to be that of corresponding standing committees. Overlap and size of committees are issues.	Dependent on size of membership.	Would require rule changes and amendment of 5-5-211 and 5-5-234, MCA.	

<p>Workload</p>	<p>Staff directly involved in interim committee support:</p> <p>Research Office (R) = 1 Director, 8 Researchers, 3 secretaries.</p> <p>Legal Services (L) = 1 Director, 8 Attorneys, 1 Paralegal.</p> <p>Legislative Environmental Policy Office (LEPO) = 1 LEA/Attorney, 3 Researchers</p>	<p>The current staffing pattern will support Local Government being split from ELGIC</p> <p>Researchers and LEPO are dedicated full-time to interim activities (committees, information requests). Attorneys perform codification, annotations, and initiative review in addition to their legal and administrative rule support of interim committees.</p> <p>All three groups bill draft and staff session standing committees.</p>			
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