

Comparative Information on Interim Committees for 10 States (2004)

State	Number of Interim Committees	Topic Selection Process	Meeting Scheduling	Staffing
Colorado	Usually 15-20	Study resolutions must be introduced by a date certain. Study resolutions are sent to the Legislative Council. The Council invites prime sponsors to present their reasons for the study, prioritizes the study resolutions and then votes on which ones will be done. If the session ends before the Council prioritizes study resolutions, the Council Executive Committee has the statutory power to authorize interim committees to meet, be paid and to report.	Each committee establishes its own schedule for meeting. No schedule that coordinates all interim committee meetings.	Staffed by joint nonpartisan research staff (from the Legislative Council).
Hawaii	Senate—4 (which was more than normal) House—Standing committees may work, plus 3-4 special interim committees. Interim committees usually are single-chamber.	Committees may be established by 1) law, 2) joint resolution, 3) single house resolution, 4) joint directive of the Senate and House leaders, 5) assignment by the Senate president or Speaker.	House—Committees meet at the call of the chair, but with the approval of the Speaker's office (in order to minimize conflicts).	Staffed by caucus research staff.
Idaho	10	Resolutions are introduced; the Senate and House review the list of introductions and “pare” it down, so only a few are enacted. Interim committees typically have a very narrow focus.	Interim committees meet at the call of the chair	Staffed by joint nonpartisan research staff.

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Montana	<p>3 primary administrative committees 9 statutory interim committees</p> <p>These are joint committees.</p>	<p>Immediately after adjournment of a regular session, the Legislative Services Division prepares and circulates a list of study requests to all members. Each legislator is asked to rank each request for study according to the degree of importance he or she attaches to it. The LSD staff then arranges the study requests in order according to the relative rankings in the poll. Based upon the polling results, staff availability and total funds appropriated for studies, the Legislative Council designates the number of interim studies to be conducted. The Council assigns the studies to the appropriate statutory interim committee.</p>	<p>Each committee adopts a meeting schedule for the interim at its organizational meeting. Interim work must be completed by September 15 of the even-numbered year.</p>	<p>Staffed by joint nonpartisan research staff.</p>
Nevada	<p>56 Legislative Bodies (oversight [administrative, audit, budget, and legal] and study committees) during 2003-2004 Interim. Of these 56, there were 42 study committees, subcommittees, or related advisory committees.</p>	<p>Some of the study committee topics are codified in existing statute; some are enacted under new laws; some are set forth in concurrent resolutions adopted each regular legislative session; and some are directed by the Legislative Commission between sessions. In recent sessions, each house has selected three concurrent resolutions to carry out interim studies. These studies are in addition to the interim studies carried out by ongoing statutory committees.</p>	<p>The interim committee schedule usually begins in September after the regular session (held in odd-numbered years) after the committee members are selected by the Legislative Commission and/or the legislative leadership of both houses. The chair of each interim committee sets the meeting schedule, and most committees conclude their meetings when they submit their bill draft requests by the statutory deadlines of July 1 (nonstatutory committees) or September 1 (statutory committees). Most statutory committees meet once a month from September through the following September, and the nonstatutory committees usually meet once every other month from September through June.</p>	<p>Staffed by the central nonpartisan Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). The LCB Director assigns most of the study committees to the Research Division, but he also assigns some to the Fiscal Analysis Division. In most cases, a research analyst and a secretary are assigned to each study committee by the Research Director. The research analyst serves as the primary committee policy analyst and committee administrator. The Legal Division of LCB assigns one or more attorneys as legal counsel to each study committee.</p>

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New Mexico	23	Created by statute or by Legislative Council action	Interim committees meet at the call of the chair (generally one meeting per month)	Staffed by joint nonpartisan staff
North Dakota	Usually 24	<p>In North Dakota, the Legislative Council, a bipartisan statutory committee, has authority to assign studies to interim committees the Council creates. We also have a few study committees that are created by statute, but all of them report to the Legislative Council.</p> <p>The Legislative Council has statutory authority to establish priorities on studies assigned by concurrent resolution to maintain its workload within the limits of time and appropriations. More studies are usually called for than the Council can handle, so the Council meets and decides which ones to prioritize. Those not selected are not studied.</p> <p>A few studies are mandated by law each session, and the Legislative Council is required to study those issues. To give the Council more discretion, our staff suggests language such as “the Council shall consider studying” in bills calling for studies, but if legislators feel strongly enough about an issue they will require the studies in the bills or amendments they introduce.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Legislative Council has authority under the rules of the Council to create new interim committees and to make additional assignments of studies to committees. Interim committees are limited to the studies they have been assigned either by the Legislative Council or by statute, but interim committees can ask the Chairman of the Legislative Council for authority to expand their jurisdiction.</p>	Meetings of interim committees are usually at the call of the chairs, but some statutory committees need to meet at least once each calendar quarter.	Staffed by joint nonpartisan research staff (1999)

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South Dakota	15 (average 8-10)	<p>At the final meeting of the standing committees, members are surveyed to see what issues they'd like to study. Individual members also are invited to add issues. The comprehensive list is sent to members, and they are asked to rank their top five issues (1-5). The Executive Board reviews the prioritized list and selects the issues to be studied. The final list is sent to members who are asked to rank the issues (1-5) on which they would like to serve. The Executive Board reviews the requests and makes the committee assignments.</p>		<p>Staffed by joint nonpartisan research staff (1999)</p> <p>Clerical staff provided by joint nonpartisan commission (1999)</p>
Utah	13	<p>Legislative Management Committee assigns study items to interim committee chairs, many of which originate from the Master Study</p> <p>Resolution passed each year (HJR 20, 2005 General Session). Not all items are selected by chairs for interim study. Chairs of each interim committee may formally request to study other pertinent items.</p>	<p>Please note that interim committee meetings are typically scheduled to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (April through November). Site visits will eliminate a typical interim committee meeting day for the month in which it is held. A site visit may, but not necessarily, occur one month each year, usually in August or September.</p> <p>According to Interim Rule IR3-1-101--(2)(a)Each interim committee shall meet at the time and in the room assigned by the Legislative Management Committee. (2)(b)An interim committee may meet at additional times or in other locations as determined by the chairs, if reasonable notice is issued as required by Utah Code Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings.</p>	<p>The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel staffs interim committees. It assigns one staff analyst, attorney, and secretary to each interim committee. (In 2005-16 attorneys, 15 analysts and 7 secretaries)</p>

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Wyoming	<p>Joint Interim Committees: 10 (10 of the 12 Senate and House standing committees meet jointly during the interim.)</p> <p>Permanent Statutory Committees: 4 (Management Council, Management Audit Committee, Select Water, Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments)</p> <p>Current Select Committees: In addition to the joint interim committees and permanent statutory committees, the Legislature typically authorizes a number of select committees to address specific issues during the interim. The number of these committees vary from year to year.</p>	<p>The joint standing committee meets and establishes a list of issues that it wants to study. The proposed list is submitted to the Management Council. The Management Council reviews each committee's list and then either approves or modifies it.</p> <p>Typically only 2-3 issues are required by legislation to be studied. These are assigned to the appropriate standing committee.</p>	Each committee set its own schedule for meetings during the interim..	Interim committee work is staffed by the Legislative Service Office.