

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

|                    |  |               |             |
|--------------------|--|---------------|-------------|
| <b>SPONSOR</b>     | Reps. Herrera, De La Cruz, Johnson and<br>Szczepanski/Sen. Hamblen | LAST UPDATED  | _____       |
|                    |  | ORIGINAL DATE | 2/16/2025   |
|                    |  | BILL          | House Joint |
| <b>SHORT TITLE</b> | Combine Standing & Interim Committees                              | NUMBER        | Memorial 2  |
|                    |  | ANALYST       | Leger       |

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

| Agency/Program | FY25           | FY26             | FY27                    | 3 Year<br>Total Cost  | Recurring or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
|                | \$2.5 to \$6.0 | \$10.0 to \$20.0 | \$500.0 to<br>\$1,000.0 | \$2.5 to<br>\$1,000.0 | Recurring                    | General Fund     |
| <b>Total</b>   | \$2.5 to \$6.0 | \$10.0 to \$20.0 | \$500.0 to<br>\$1,000.0 | \$2.5 to<br>\$1,000.0 | Recurring                    | General Fund     |

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Joint Memorial 2

House Joint Memorial 2 (HJM2) requests the Legislative Council to convene an 11-member task force to study combining standing committees (which meet during the session) and interim committees into committees that function during the legislative session and the interim.

HJM2 requests the study include how standing and interim committees could be combined into year-round committees, the staffing needs of combined committees, administration and funding of the combined committees, the legislation needed to combine the committees, the number of combined committees needed, each committee's area of subject matter, and how the changes could be implemented in 2027.

The task force is to be appointed by the Legislative Council to include four members of the House of Representative, two from majority and two from minority, and four members of the Senate, two from majority and two from minority, and three public members who have expertise in legislative affairs.

The task force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the members of the Council and the director of the Legislative Council Service by November 30, 2025.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The task force will consist of eight legislators who may be entitled to receive mileage and per diem reimbursement for attending in-person task force meetings. The per diem cost estimate is \$247/day and 70 cents per mile for mileage, the rates set for legislator travel from March 1-September 30, 2025. The estimates do not include public members of the task force.

The expense for FY25 assumes the task force meets one day a month from April to June.

The expense for FY26 assumes the task force meets one day a month from July to November when the final report is expected to be complete.

HJM2 suggests changes recommended by the task force be implemented in 2027. The 2027 legislative session will be a 60-day session and may have some added expenses if reorganization and hiring is a recommendation of the task force.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HJM2 states there were 26 standing committees during the 2024 regular legislative session—the House had 17 and the Senate had nine—and there were 24 interim committees during the 2024 legislative interim.

HJM2 further states having the same committees function during the legislative session and the interim could increase the efficiency of the legislative process, reduce overlap of subject matter, allow for continuity in membership and staffing, provide for more uniformity and references to committees in the law, and make endorsements of legislation during the interim more meaningful.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Discussion of staffing needs should include ensuring there is adequate space for current year-round full-time staff and any additional staffing that may be needed.

Currently, the space for current year-round full-time staff housed within the state capitol and Capitol North is inadequate. Office sharing, creating landing spots, and occupying committee rooms during the interim have allowed for temporary relief. Should the Secretary of State vacate the capitol, the space will likely accommodate only the current staff and not any new staff.

JL/hg/sgs