

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>	Lopez	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>	
		<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b>	2/27/2025
<b>SHORT TITLE</b>	Increase Health Committee & Make Permanent	<b>BILL NUMBER</b>	Senate Bill 488
		<b>ANALYST</b>	Leger

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
\$500.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.  
\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

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

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	Up to \$250.0	Up to \$540.0	Up to \$790.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.  
\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill 1, House Joint Memorial 2, and Senate Bill 456

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 488

Senate Bill 488 (SB488) creates a permanent joint committee of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS), composed of 12 members, six members appointed by the Speaker of the House and six members appointed by the Senate by the committees' committee of the Senate or the President Pro Tempore if made during the interim in consultation with and agreement of a majority of members of the committees' committee.

Beginning in 2025, the chair will be a House member and vice chair a Senate member and shall alternate between the two houses every two years.

The duties of LHHS will no longer include review or study; rather the committee will monitor and oversee programs, agencies, policies, and issues related to health and human services. Staffing for LHHS would be year-round and would include individuals with expertise in law,

policy, or finance related to healthcare delivery or finance or to human services matters.

Two new sections are added, one for compliance with requests for information to include documents, material or information not made confidential by law one authorizing LHHS subpoena power upon a majority vote by the members. Expenses related to the subpoena shall be served without cost to LHHS or its subcommittees.

SB488 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Legislative Council Service for the purpose of staffing for and the activities of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee for expenditure in FY25 and FY26.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Funding may be expended in FY25 and FY26. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the general fund.

The appropriation is sufficient to cover two FTE. However, it would need to be coupled with additional appropriated funds to cover the mileage and per diem of 12 members.

The projected cost of a 12-member committee, two FTE, and mileage and per diem is estimated to cost at a minimum \$540 thousand annually. The estimate does not include contractual needs.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Hiring of additional legislative staff may pose an issue. Currently, the space for year-round full-time staff housed within the state capitol and Capitol North is inadequate. Sharing offices, 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.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 1 includes funding for the activities and staff of the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee.

House Joint Memorial 2 (HJM2) requests the Legislative Council to study combining standing interim committees into committees that function during the legislative session and the interim. The study will 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, and each committee's area of subject matter to be implemented in 2027.

Senate Bill 456 creates a permanent Joint Interim Courts and Justice Committee. The committee will be composed of 10 members appointed by the Legislative Council and staff provided by the Legislative Council Service.

JL/r1/SR