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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/2020

SPONSOR Ely LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 1

SHORT TITLE Reconfigure Interim Committee Structure SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Leger

### ESTIMATED OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
		NFI	

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of House Joint Memorial

House Joint Memorial 1 requests the Legislative Council to study the feasibility of reconfiguring the interim committee structure to twelve, reducing the number of advisory members, increasing the number of days members may be reimbursed for attending meetings they are non-appointed to, and greater coordination of policy and appropriation priorities.

A report is to be provided to the First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Legislature for its consideration in restructuring the interim committees.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJM 1 does not contain an appropriation. Any costs associated with the joint memorial would be absorbed the Legislative Council Service.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HJM 1 reports the following:

- Approximately two dozen interim committees and subcommittees meeting during the interim;
- Between May and December there are approximately 150 business days in which over 200 committee meeting days are scheduled;
- Between October and December interim committees review legislation for endorsement,

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some of which requires funding – there is little to no coordination between most interim committees; and

- A number of similar presentations are made before multiple committees with judicial and executive staff appearing multiple times before committees to present and discuss on the same materials.

The HJM references a report conducted in 2007 by the Legislative Structure and Process Study Task Force and states the following:

- Between 1979 and 2007, the number of interim committees doubled in the number of committees with ten or more voting members tripled;
- The increased level of demand of the interim “dilutes the legislature’s ability to make policy effectively by spreading the legislature’s attention too broadly”; and
- The task force recommended the number of interim committees be limited to no more than 12 – including Legislative Finance Committee, Legislative Education Study Committee and Legislative Council, Legislative Ethics Committee and the Committee on Compacts.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

HJM 1 states the following:

- A number of committees have had to conduct business as special subcommittees where a quorum was lacking;
- The relevance and effectiveness of interim committees is now in question as many members are unable to attend committee meetings; and
- Lack of coordination, number of committees, days, and members dilutes the effectiveness of the legislature.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HJM 1 calls for the Legislative Council provide a report to the First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Legislature for its consideration in restructuring the interim committees.

A copy of the memorial should be transmitted to the co-chairs of Legislative Council and the Director of Legislative Council Service.

JL/sb