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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/21

SPONSOR Rubio LAST UPDATED _____ HB 301

SHORT TITLE Legislative Process Review Commission SB _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$40.0-\$75.0	\$10.0-\$18.5	\$50.0-\$93.5	Recurring thru October 31, 2022.	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 301 proposes a temporary provision to create a commission to review and develop policy proposals to improve the legislative process and report findings by October 31, 2022.

The commission would consist of 10 members, no more than five from the same political party. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committees' Committee of the Senate would each appoint five members to the commission. Two meeting absences are grounds for removal from the commission and, on the request of the chair, the appointing body would replace the member.

The commission would be tasked with reviewing policies and developing proposals related to legislative transparency and public access, legislator compensation and staff support, session rules and procedures, and the capital outlay process. The final report, including recommendations and proposed legislation, would be submitted to the Legislative Council by October 31, 2022.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The commission may hire or contract staff for assistance, including with interviewing those who

wish to express their views, and may request ask the Legislative Council for support. Members of the commission are only entitled to compensation pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

The estimated fiscal impact in the table above speculates 12 monthly commission meetings through October 2022 and \$50 thousand for temporary staff to assist the commission. The commission will be able to keep costs down with the ability to ask Legislative Council for support.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

If the commission decides to recommend paying legislators a wage as opposed to per diem, and that recommendation is implemented, most likely through a constitutional amendment approved by voters (although over the years those have failed), more young professionals with families to support may be interested in serving. Also, a more professional legislature may be less reliant on lobbyists.

The bill supports efforts to bring greater transparency to the state’s process for prioritizing and funding essential public infrastructure projects, with an emphasis on public health and safety.

The bill does not request the Legislative Council to act on the commission’s recommendations.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The commission shall function from the date of its appointment until October 31, 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Legislative Council may be asked to provide staff support, if requested by the chair.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to Senate Bill 207 and Senate Bill 290, Public Works Commission

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, “committees” and “commissions” are not always the same thing. A “committee” operates as a means of internal regulation of legislators by the Legislature, while “commission” serves as an external review process. Committees normally consist of legislators, while legislators do not serve on commissions in most states.

AMENDMENTS

Allow the commission to also ask for assistance from the Legislative Finance Committee.

AHO/sb