

**61<sup>st</sup> WYOMING LEGISLATURE  
INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDIES  
2011 INTERIM**

**JOINT JUDICIARY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$45,500.00

Priority #: 1 Access to Courts and Uniform Prosecution of Offenses

The Committee will consider the need for full time circuit court magistrates, affordable and efficient access to the courts and the uniform prosecution of offenses.

Priority #: 2 Wyoming Governmental Claims Act

The Committee will examine the application of the savings statute to actions brought under the Wyoming Governmental Claims Act as suggested by the Wyoming Supreme Court in Hall v. Park County, 2010 WY 124, 238 P.3d 580, 2010 Wyo. LEXIS (2010).

Priority #: 3 Juvenile Justice

The Committee will study juvenile justice issues with an emphasis on circuit court jurisdiction. The study will include the applicability of the model juvenile code in circuit court and enhancement of the single point of entry.

Priority #: ~~7~~ 4 Public Records and Open Meeting Statutes [**Changed from Priority 7 to Priority 4 by Management Council**]

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The Committee will consider issues involving the Public Records Act and the open meeting statutes.

Priority #: 5 Wrongful Death Actions

The Committee will review the appointment, purpose and powers of a personal representative in wrongful death cases.

Priority #: 6 ~~Property Exempt~~ Exemptions from Execution and Attachments

The Committee will review ~~property exempt~~ exemptions from execution and attachments and the interplay of the exemptions with respect to bankruptcy law. [**Modified by Management Council**]

Priority #: 8 7 Appeal time involving clandestine laboratory remediation

The Committee will review W.S. 35-9-159(e) relating to clandestine laboratories and time limits for appeals. Management Council assigned this topic to the Committee pursuant to Administrative Rule Review Report 10-45.

Priority #: 8 Prisoner Litigation [**Changed from Priority 4 to Priority 8 by Management Council**]

The Committee will review possible abuse of the judicial process by incarcerated individuals.

Priority #: 9 Tentative Meeting Schedule

April 21-22, 2011: Worland  
August 30-31, 2011: Newcastle  
October 13-14, 2011: Evanston

## **JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$15,000.00  
Priority #: 1 Retirement System

Issues include cost of living increases and possibly defined contribution plan (with the exact parameters and study issues to be determined after meeting with retirement system representatives on March 1 and 2).

Two (partial) days of meeting time. Legislation possible. Staff assistance will depend upon the ultimate issues undertaken.

Priority #: 2 Preference Laws (including procurement issues relating to A&I)

Issues concerning appropriate preferences for in-state contractors and enforcement of preference laws. SF 144 requires the Committee to review current preference laws, including the one year changes made by SF 144 and develop legislation. Under procurement issues the committee will review the various state procurement provisions, including consolidating IT services within the department of administration and information.

Three (partial) days of meeting time. Legislation likely. Staff will be required to review current preference laws and rules and enforcement mechanisms.

Priority #: 3 Employee Compensation

The issue will include insurance, market pay, merit pay and cost of living adjustments.  
**[Modified by Management Council]**

Two (partial) days of meeting time. Legislation is possible.

Priority #: 4 External Cost Adjustment.

The Committee is required by law to review and make recommendations to the governor regarding an external cost adjustment to the school funding formula.

One partial day via video conference.

Priority #: 5 Statutorily Required Studies

The Committee is required by law to study a number of issues resulting from the 2011 session. Some of these issues include developing legislation and some require only review or only accepting reports generated pursuant to that legislation. The legislation includes HB 127 (recalibration), SF 144 (preference laws as noted above), HB 215 (Department of Health Reorganization), HB 252 (Executive department position classification), SF 146 (Teacher Accountability).

Three (partial) days of committee meeting time. The development of legislation will be dependent upon the enacted laws.

## **JOINT REVENUE INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$35,000.00

Priority #: 1 Economic Development and Tax Policy.

Consideration of overall tax policy and tax initiatives which impact state economic development.

Priority #: 2 Wind Energy Tax

Review wind energy taxation efforts from previous sessions and consider appropriate legislation for taxation of wind energy.

Priority #: 3 Taxation of Agricultural Lands

Review issues related to the taxation of agricultural lands and subdivisions.

Priority #: 4 Severance tax issues.

Review issues related to the taxation of solid minerals including the direct cost ratio for coal and issues related to the taxation of uranium.

## **JOINT EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$45,000.00

Priority #: 1 Block Grant Model Monitoring.

2011 HB0127 establishes a monitoring process of block grant model components to ensure the model remains cost-based and to establish benchmarks which monitor funding levels compared to cost-based levels. LSO staff is required to report a process to both the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations interim committee on implementation of reporting mechanisms. This process, as finalized, will be an important component of setting future block grant model external cost adjustments.

Priority #: 2 Regional Cost of Living Adjustment.

A component of the 2010 recalibration efforts left open final review of the regional cost adjustment pending completion of 2010 federal census data, which is a major ingredient for completing the Hedonic wage index. Final analysis will be submitted to the joint education interim committee and to the joint appropriation interim committee for any subsequent action which may be presented to the 2012 legislature.

Priority #: 3 Hathaway Student Scholarship Program.

2011 SF0101 requires a series of reports to be submitted to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations interim committee regarding students awarded Hathaway student scholarships. These reports pertain to remediation requirements, student completion data and support services for students requiring remediation.

Priority #: 4 Extending minimum school year.

Review proposals contained in 2011 HB0027 pertaining to the minimum school year, including four-day week alternative scheduling.

Priority # 5 Review Reports.

The committee shall receive a report from the Department of Education updating its efforts initiated and funded in 2005 and subsequent years regarding the consolidation and coordination of student and staffing level data reporting, and the impact of the electronic transcript center and the Hathaway longitudinal data system on school district data reporting consolidation. The department will also provide any recommendations for further reporting consolidation and future integration of electronic data collections between school districts and the department. [Study Added by Management Council]

## **JOINT AGRICULTURE, STATE AND PUBLIC LANDS AND WATER RESOURCES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$35,000.00

Priority #: 1 Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Topics: Pesticide law; animal damage; updating of agriculture statutes.

Exploration and research of the statutes in reference to the use of pesticides in Wyoming, specifically related to consistency in licensure. Study and discussion of animal damage and possible control mechanisms and solutions that may be under the authority and control of the Animal Management Damage Board. In addition, the Committee wishes to undertake a general review of the statutes related to agriculture for the purposes of updating.

Priority #: 2 Wyoming State Forestry Division

Topic: Mitigation of the Bark Beetle.

Explore innovative and new ways to mitigate the infestation and damage of the Bark Beetle in Wyoming, including exploration of inclusion of sawmills as a partial solution.

Priority #: 3 Wyoming State Engineer's Office

Topic: Irrigation Districts

Study specific aspects of irrigation districts, including the definition of historic use and articulation of a process for the transfer of irrigation water to other lands.

Priority #: 4 Emergency Topics as Necessary

Committee requests the ability to retain the authority to study or draft legislation in relation to any topic or emergency that may be presented by the various agencies that fall under the umbrella of agriculture, state and public lands and water.

Priority #: 5 Tentative Meeting Schedule

Spring : May 2 and 3 (Wheatland, WY)

Fall : Sept. 26 and 27 (Afton, WY)

## **JOINT TRAVEL, RECREATION, WILDLIFE AND CULTURAL RESOURCES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$35,000.00

Priority #: 1 Game and Fish Department issues

The committee will study the funding and ~~desired~~ required program levels for the aquatic invasive species program. **[Modified by Management Council]**

The committee will also consider statutory changes to give the commission and department flexibility in addressing chronic game management problems.

The committee will receive information and consider whether a study of grizzly bear populations should be funded.

The committee will monitor threatened and endangered species issues and other issues brought by the department.

Priority #: 2 State Parks and Cultural Resources

The committee will study the department's concessionaire program with a goal of setting best practices and maximizing effectiveness of the program.

The committee will consider issues relating to the structure of the cultural trust fund board.

The committee will study the department's funding issues, including receiving presentations by the state parks division on preparation of its budget and the financial status of the division.

Priority #: 3 Tourism

The committee will receive the annual report on the tourist season and will consider legislation recommended in the department's Master Plan.

Priority #: 4 Committee Schedule

The committee anticipates three 2-day meetings, likely to be held in June, August and October/November.

## **JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$37,500.00

Priority #: 1 Legislative Redistricting. Redistricting Budget \$100,000

The committee is tasked with coordinating and managing the redistricting of the Wyoming Legislature following the 2010 United States Census Bureau data for Wyoming. To accomplish this task, the committee will: 1) manage LSO redistricting staff; 2) provide abundant opportunity for legislator and public input on redistricting; 3) develop a database of proposed alternative redistricting plans which the public and election officials would have ample opportunity to review and comment upon; and 4) prepare a single redistricting bill for introduction in the 2012 legislative session which would be in a format that facilitated adoption by amendment of an alternative redistricting plan.

To accomplish these goals, the committee will follow two tracks. The full committee will meet three or four times during the interim for two day meetings. These meetings are tentatively scheduled for April, June/July, October/November and December/early January 2012. One day of each full committee meeting will be devoted to redistricting, including receiving public comment and developing draft plans.

The committee will also hold six to ten regional meetings throughout the state in the summer months to receive public comment on redistricting. These regional meetings will be attended by one or both of the committee chairman, and by any committee member who wishes to attend. It will be left to the discretion of Management Council whether to provide salary, travel and per diem for local legislators who attend a regional meeting.

All redistricting plans which a committee member or other legislator submits for development must receive initial approval from the committee chairmen.

Priority #: 2 Department of insurance.

The committee will consider amendments to the insurance statutes including revision of surplus lines laws to comply with national changes, revisions to the hazardous financial condition statutes, revisions to the risk based capital statutes to add a trend test for health insurers, and any other issues necessary to maintain state accreditation.

Priority #: 3 Public Service Commission

The committee will hear reports on the Wyoming Universal Service Fund. The committee will also consider the proper regulatory treatment of telecommunications services using Internet Protocol.

Priority #: 4 Elections

The committee will consider legislation dealing with removal of county appointed officials from office and will also consider any election related issues raised by the secretary of state if necessary.

Priority #: 5 Archaic Laws

The committee will review archaic laws assigned by Management Council.

## **JOINT TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$42,500.00

Priority #: 1 Highway Funding – Non tax/toll revenue generation.

Consider non-tax and non-toll based revenue sources from which to fund Wyoming highways. Study revenue sources, current diversions from revenue sources and the best methods for supporting highway funding.

Priority #: 2 Military Affairs.

Consider state-wide armory funding and improvements, land purchases for Camp Guernsey and vocational certificate programs available to national guard service members.

Priority #: 3 Veterans' Affairs.

Consider Wyoming veterans' long-term healthcare options, including community living and nursing care facilities.

Priority #: 4 Agency reporting.

Receive various reports as required by law and consider reports and information concerning WyDOT-aeronautics, homeland security, the SERC program and railroad security.

Priority #: 5 Miscellaneous

Consider other topics relevant to transportation, highways and military affairs in Wyoming.

## **JOINT MINERALS, BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$42,500.00

Priority #: 1 Federal Actions Impacting Wyoming Energy Sector.

The Committee will evaluate and consider legislative responses to federal actions which impact development of Wyoming energy resources. The evaluation will focus on the impact of Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Interior air, water and land regulations for Wyoming and its counties.

Priority #: 2 Recently Enacted Legislation and Value Added Processes.

The Committee will review and consider:

- A. The progress of the reorganization of the Department of Workforce Services and Department of Employment into a unified agency.
- B. Past legislation concerning the Wyoming Energy Plan and actions to develop and implement a statewide energy plan.
- C. Recent developments in enhanced oil recovery.
- D. Natural gas as a transportation fuel.

- E. Broadband utilization and optimization in Wyoming.
- F. The appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Environmental Quality Council.
- G. ~~Whether a time limit should be imposed on Industrial Siting Permits between issuance of the permit and development of the project.~~ The industrial siting process, including the scope of projects subject to the act, the appropriateness of financing requirements and impact payments under the act, and timelines for permitting. **[Modified by Management Council]**
- H. Recent developments in gas to liquids technology.

Priority #: 3 Southeast Wyoming Tour.

The Committee will tour facilities in the southeast portion of the state including sites on which hydraulic fracking is occurring, the microbial conversion pilot project, the National Center for Atmospheric Research supercomputer site, and the High Plains Gasification–Advanced Technologies Center.

Priority #: 4 Municipal Solid Waste Landfills.

The Committee will take testimony and receive reports on the prioritization of municipal solid waste landfills which require remediation across the state. The Committee will investigate the funding allocation among the prioritized landfills.

Priority #: 5 Reports and Updates.

The Committee will receive and consider reports required by law and updates from various agencies, including but not limited to the Wyoming Business Council, the Wyoming Pipeline Authority, the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, and the Production States Agreement (HB0217).

Priority #: 6 Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Committee plans to meet for 3 two-day meetings. The meetings are tentatively set for June, September and October/November. One meeting will include tours of facilities in Southeast Wyoming.

## **JOINT LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$45,000.00

Priority #: 1 Response to Federal Initiatives

The Committee's jurisdiction includes areas that require state response to federal legislative or regulatory initiatives, as well as areas that require state executive branch reports. Significant areas include health care reform, Medicaid studies, health insurance exchanges, mental health parity and health care provider recruitment. The Committee

will monitor and respond as needed to federal initiatives and state agency reports. The Committee will study Medicaid entitlements and programs in order to better understand the program, federally mandated changes and Medicaid options and alternatives.

Priority #: 2 Assignments From 2011 Legislation

The Committee is specifically assigned to follow up on significant new legislation involving governmental reorganization, including: Department of Employment/Workforce Services merger; Department of Health reorganization study; Insurance Commission interstate compacts; at-will state executive employees; long-term care choices. The Committee will monitor these subjects and propose further implementing legislation as needed.

Priority #: 3 Cost Containment Efforts

The Committee will investigate cost containment efforts though all of the programs under its jurisdiction, ~~including: Medicaid oversight, fraud prevention and eligibility processes; Healthy Frontiers Program review; public health nursing funding; Eldercare; economic analysis of state institutions; and technology implementation in telemedicine/telehealth, electronic patient records and dissemination of health studies and resource information.~~ **[Modified by Management Council]**

Priority #: 4 Oversight Hearings

The Committee will conduct general oversight hearings regarding the Department of Health and customer satisfaction feedback, funding for critical access hospitals, the Board of Medicine's implementation of physician licensure improvements and the Wyoming Cancer Control Act

## **MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Standard Budget: \$20,000.00

Priority #: 1 Statutory Responsibilities

During the interim between sessions, the Management Council directs the LSO staff, monitors interim committee activities, reviews administrative rules, and oversees the budget and administrative affairs of the Legislature.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Council typically schedules three 1-day meetings held in late spring, early fall and mid-December.

## **MANAGEMENT AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$20,000.00

Priority #: 1 Statutory Responsibilities

Pursuant to statute, the Management Audit Committee directs the program evaluation function of the Legislature. This includes the selection of performance audit studies and direction of the LSO program evaluation staff.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Committee typically schedules three to four 1-day meetings during the year.

## **SELECT WATER COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$42,500.00

Priority #: 1 Statutory Responsibilities

The Select Water Committee is required by statute to monitor the water development program, review project contracts and prepare annual legislation. The Committee is also required by statute to review and make recommendations regarding the project funding list under the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund program.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Select Committee typically schedules a 2-day workshop and meeting in late spring; a 2-day workshop and meeting plus a tour in late summer; a 2-day workshop and joint meeting with the Water Development Commission in the fall; and a final 1-day meeting prior to the session to finalize legislation.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL FINANCING AND INVESTMENTS**

Standard Budget: \$17,500.00

Priority #: 1 Statutory Responsibilities

The Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments is charged by statute with monitoring the establishment and implementation of the state's investment and capital financing policies.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Committee typically schedules two or three 1-day meetings during the year.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Standard Budget: \$32,500.00

Priority #: 1 School Facilities Commission budget and school facility remedies.

The Select Committee is by law required to review the School Facilities Commission budget on school facilities needs, and to review monthly reports depicting deployment of appropriated funds for school capital construction and building component level projects contained in the 2011-2012 biennial budget, as supplemented by the 2011 legislature.

Also and as required by law, the Select Committee is required to work with the School Facilities Commission and the newly established Department to assemble a budget request for the 2013-2014 biennial budget. Select Committee budget recommendations are required to be submitted to the Governor and the Joint Appropriations Committee by September 1.

Priority #: 2 Adequacy assessment and prioritization of school building remedies.

Review the School Facilities Commission school building needs assessment process and the prioritization of school building needs based upon statewide adequacy standards as clarified in 2011 Senate File 0016, monitoring implementation of legislative modifications to this process and the building condition and capacity measures incorporated into this prioritization process.

Priority #: 3 School Facilities Commission reorganization.

Monitoring reorganization of the School Facilities Commission and the establishment of a newly created department under the Commission, pursuant to 2011 Senate File 110.

## **SELECT NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING COMMITTEE**

Standard Budget: \$3,500.00

Priority #: 1 Statutory Responsibilities

Pursuant to statute, the Select Natural Resource Funding Committee reviews projects funded from the wildlife and natural resource trust income account and monitors activities of the wildlife and natural resource trust account board.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Committee typically schedules a one or two day meeting during the year.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES**

Standard Budget: \$7,500.00

Priority #: 1 General Responsibilities

The Select Committee on Legislative Facilities is responsible for addressing furnishings, remodeling, and space needs in the legislative areas of the Capitol building, including oversight of facilities projects specifically approved and funded during the session.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Select Committee typically schedules two or three 1-day meetings during the year.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL RELATIONS**

Standard Budget: \$12,500.00

Priority #: 1 General Responsibilities

Created by the Management Council, the Select Committee on Tribal Relations works with the Eastern Shoshone Indian Tribe, the Northern Arapaho Indian Tribe and various state agencies to address services and needs on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Committee addresses health and safety, water (including potable water to homes), education, transportation, gaming, communications, minerals, revenue, economic development and other issues that are a concern to the citizens on and near the Reservation.

Priority #: 2 Health

The Committee will review health care issues, including monitoring the implications and implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and studying Public Law 93-638 clinics and the options and requirements for the construction and operation of a 638 health clinic.

Priority #: 3 Family Services, Juveniles and Law Enforcement

The Committee will examine family services and juvenile issues and law enforcement efforts, training and cooperation.

Priority #: 4 Water

The Committee will continue to monitor and examine water issues. The Committee will investigate the management of the Wind River Irrigation Project by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and will request a field hearing to address concerns of tribal members.

Priority #: 5 Solid Waste

The Committee will receive information and updates on solid waste needs, facilities and services. The Committee will work with state, county and tribal governments.

Priority #: 6 Taxes

The Committee will monitor and consider tax issues, including severance taxes.

Priority #: 7 Tentative Meeting Schedule:

The Committee typically schedules two meetings during the year. During the 2011 interim, the Committee proposes to also attend a field hearing on the Wind River Indian Irrigation Project.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON AIR TRANSPORTATION**

Standard Budget: \$7,500.00

Priority #: 1 General Responsibilities

Created by the Management Council, the Select Committee on Air Transportation is statutorily charged with receiving reports from the Aeronautics Commission relating to the expenditure of funds from the air services enhancement account pursuant to W.S. 10-3-602(c). The Committee also reviews proposals for air service enhancements to spur economic development in the state.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Committee typically schedules one or two 1-day meetings during the year.

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY AND PROCESS**

Standard Budget: \$7,500.00

Priority #: 1 General Responsibilities Relating to Technology

The primary responsibility of the Select Committee is to provide oversight of the Legislature's computer, audio/video and Web site development by the LSO information technology staff.

Priority #: 2 General Responsibilities Relating to Legislative Process

The primary responsibility of the Select Committee is to review and recommend rule and process changes and other innovations to enhance the efficient, open and transparent operations of the Legislature.

Priority #: 3 General Responsibilities Relating to Public Information & Public Outreach

As previously assigned by Management Council, the Select Committee on Legislative Technology and Process will oversee legislative public outreach initiatives and efforts to improve the information available to the public about legislative activities.

#### Priority #: 4 Monitoring of SharePoint Implementation

The Select Committee will provide oversight of the conversion of the Legislature's existing technology systems to the new SharePoint platform. The first priority will be to replace the bill drafting, tracking and processing systems (which will be referred to as the Legislative Management System or LMS) during this interim and the Committee will also begin planning how to deploy SharePoint for legislative and public information needs in the future. The Committee will evaluate the need for policy changes based on the ways in which technology can be better deployed to improve legislative operations.

#### Priority #: 5 Conversion of Legislative Email Systems

The Committee will provide general guidance to LSO staff regarding conversion of legislator and staff email to a new legislative branch email system.

#### Priority #: 6 Audio and Video Recording of Legislative Activities

The Select Committee will consider policy issues related to public recording (audio and video) of floor proceedings, committee meetings, and conversations with legislators by the public. The Committee will also evaluate the logistics and costs related to legislative audio recording of standing committee meetings.

#### Priority #: 7 Standing Committees – Information Available to the Public

The Select Committee will evaluate policy, technology, and procedural issues relating to information available to the public regarding actions on legislation before standing committees.

### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARCHAIC LAWS**

Standard Budget: \$3,500.00

#### Priority #: 1 General Responsibilities

Created by Management Council, the Select Committee on Archaic Laws is engaged in a long term project to review and recommend to Management Council legislation to amend or repeal archaic statutes. The Committee is charged with addressing the following types of issues: update references to federal or state citations which have been amended over the years when the existing reference is clearly inaccurate; repeal provisions held to be unconstitutional in whole or in part; repeal or amend laws which no longer appear to be pertinent due to the passage of time or historic practices. The Select Committee may occasionally request Management Council to refer substantive issues to one or more of the Joint Interim Committees for consideration.

#### Tentative Meeting Schedule.

The Select Committee will likely schedule one or two 1-day meetings during the year.