JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The standard budget provides funding for one, 2-day meeting and one, 1-day meeting. In order to fully conduct a review of issues related to the State Penitentiary as well as other interim topics, the Committee is requesting an additional $6,000 for one additional day of meetings and salary, mileage and per diem for two additional legislators to attend that meeting: two, 2-day meetings, with one of those in Rawlins.

Standard Budget: $19,600.00

Priority #: 1  Wyoming Department of Corrections Facilities and Operations

Receive and review the penal facility peer review study pursuant to Section 332 of 2017 HB 0001. Require and receive regular reports on the ongoing status of the physical plant of the Wyoming State Penitentiary (WSP). If necessary, JAC may draft enabling legislation authorizing a Level II feasibility study, Level III design and construction, or both, for the maintenance, repair or replacement of WSP. Additionally, the Committee will review the staffing needs, capacity, funding needs, and operational structure of the institutions, including investigating potential privatization options, and facility requirements of all Department of Corrections institutions. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one additional legislator, respectively, to attend the additional JAC meeting in Rawlins to participate in the Committee discussion on issues related to the Wyoming State Penitentiary, but not vote on any issues before the Committee. Additional members appointed to attend the JAC meeting shall have, to the greatest extent practicable, specialized knowledge in architecture, geotechnics, other disciplines of engineering, or other related expertise.

Priority #: 2  Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Consolidation, Hardware and Software

The Committee will review the status, benefits and opportunities for re-structuring or continued consolidation of information technology (IT) services. In addition to current staffing, structure and service delivery, the Committee will review statewide hardware and software costs and purchasing practices. The topic may conclude with structural revisions, budget revisions within the 2019-2020 biennium or recommended statutory changes with the intent to improve service delivery, reduce costs or both.

Priority #: 3  State Employee Benefits

The Committee will review state employee and retiree benefits including but not limited to: health insurance, including premiums, deductibles and co-payments; retiree health insurance; life insurance; longevity pay; dental insurance; optical insurance; retirement benefits; and vacation for state government employees. The Committee will consider a review of the Hay Group Study, including review of comparable wages in the private sector and surrounding states, and investigation of what personnel from other governmental entities and political subdivisions and other entities which are eligible for state benefits. This topic is primarily educational for new committee members, though it could result in appropriation adjustments or statutory changes.
Priority #: 4  Department of Family Services Title IV-E Reimbursements

The Committee will require explanation from the Department of Family Services regarding the agency's efforts and opportunities for improvement to increase federal Title IV-E (child welfare) reimbursement in order to maximize State resources. This Committee review may result in proposed legislation, revisions to the 2019-2020 budget or changes to internal practices.

Priority #: 5  Water and State Lands Funding Trends

The Committee will review revenues, non-project appropriations, expenditures and non-project programs benefiting from Water Development Account funding, including but not limited to, Office of State Lands and Investments, State Engineer and the Water Development Commission. The Committee will conduct a similar review regarding overall revenues, appropriations and expenditures for permanent land funds, administration costs and sources of funding. These reviews may result in proposed legislative changes, revisions to the 2019-2020 budget, or both.

Tentative Meeting Schedule
2-2 DAY MTG