



# Colorado Legislative Council Staff

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## MEMORANDUM

August 7, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Interim Study Committee

**FROM:** Bill Zepernick, Principal Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4777  
Luisa Altmann, Research Analyst, 303-866-3518  
Katie Ruedebusch, Research Analyst, 303-866-3001

**SUBJECT:** Committee Charge and Membership

### Summary

This memorandum provides the following information regarding the Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Interim Study Committee:

- the origin and charge of the committee;
- committee membership; and
- the number of approved meeting dates and bill recommendations.

### Origin and Charge of the Committee

The Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Interim Study Committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Letter 2015-3. The purpose of the committee is to determine the most effective structure and delivery model for vocational rehabilitation services when Colorado's vocational rehabilitation program is transferred to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) on July 1, 2016, following the passage of Senate Bill 15-239. Specifically, the interim study committee is mandated to make recommendations based on the following:

- the findings and recommendations of the November 2013 Legislative Audit concerning oversight and accountability of the vocational rehabilitation program;
- an evaluation of delays in the delivery of vocational rehabilitative services for the blind;
- an assessment of the efficacy of the application, receipt, and use of the federal 1973 Rehabilitation Act "110" funding for the blind;
- the consideration of any and all issues identified in the National Federation of the Blind Colorado Resolution 2014-11-2 and Resolution 2014-1; and
- consideration of any other issues related to the effective delivery of vocational rehabilitative services to the blind to assist them in obtaining jobs skills and long-term high-paying jobs.

## Committee Membership

In total, there are six members on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Interim Study Committee. The chair is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the interim study committee must elect a vice-chair from its members. The six legislators appointed to the interim study committee include:

### Representatives

***Representative Jessie Danielson***

***Chair***

Representative Dianne Primavera

Representative Joann Windholz

### Senators

Senator David Balmer

Senator Cheri Jahn

Senator Kevin Lundberg

The committee will not include any nonlegislative members; however, stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to provide information, testify, and work with the committee.

## Meeting Dates

The committee has been approved to meet up to six times during the 2015 interim. The following meeting dates have been set:

- Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in House Committee Room 112; and
- Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in House Committee Room 112.

Additional meetings dates will be discussed at the first committee meeting and set at the discretion of the chair.

## Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

**Bill limits.** The committee may refer up to three bills to the Legislative Council. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session.<sup>1</sup>

**Legislative Council review.** The Legislative Council must meet by **November 15, 2015**, to approve draft legislation. Bills not approved by Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills will count against a member's five bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.<sup>2</sup> Legislative Council Staff will apprise the committee of the date of the Legislative Council meeting once it is confirmed.

**Requirements for bill drafts.** Bills must be requested and must be approved at public meetings of the committee. Generally, bills must be finalized 10 days prior to the Legislative Council meeting. The Office of Legislative Legal Services generally requests that bills be requested at least 31 days prior to the meeting at which the committee will approve legislation. Therefore, any meeting at which the committee makes requests for legislation should be held no later than **October 2, 2015**. The meeting at which the committee approves any draft legislation should be held no later than **November 2, 2015**. Prior to voting on bills to report to the Legislative Council, a fiscal analysis must be prepared.<sup>3</sup> Bill drafts and fiscal notes will be sent to the committee three days prior to the meeting at which the bills will be approved.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D).

<sup>2</sup> Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E).

<sup>3</sup> As required by House Bill 15-1335.

## Committee Staff and Website

Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information about the committee or issues concerning the committee, please send an email to [blindvocservicescomm.ga@state.co.us](mailto:blindvocservicescomm.ga@state.co.us), or call the Legislative Council Main Office at 303-866-352. In addition, individual staff member contact information is as follows:

- Bill Zepernick, Senior Fiscal Analyst, [bill.zepernick@state.co.us](mailto:bill.zepernick@state.co.us), 303-866-4777
- Luisa Altmann, Research Analyst, [luisa.altmann@state.co.us](mailto:luisa.altmann@state.co.us), 303-866-3518
- Katie Ruedebusch, Research Analyst, [katie.ruedebusch@state.co.us](mailto:katie.ruedebusch@state.co.us), 303-866-3001

You may also visit the committee website at:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/2015-vocational-rehabilitation-services-blind>