



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Willett
With support of: Representatives Arndt, Delgrosso, and Pabon

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding cost-benefit analysis of legalized marijuana in Colorado

Date: 04/15/2016

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed during the interim between the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions to study cost-benefit analysis of legalized marijuana in Colorado and intend to ask for the committee's continuation during the interim between the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Legalized Marijuana Cost-benefit Analysis Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied are:

- a) The total government and societal costs and benefits associated with the legalization of marijuana in Colorado; and
- b) Any gaps that exist in the information that is being collected regarding the legalization of marijuana in Colorado or the additional need for studying specific issues related to the legalization of marijuana in Colorado.

Preliminarily, the interim study committee would need to meet 2 times to study the above issues during the interim between the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions and 5 times during the interim between the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions.

The interim study committee should consist of 10 members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- 5 members of the Senate, with 3 members appointed by the President of the Senate including the vice-chair and 2 members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 5 members of the House of Representatives, with 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives including the chair and 2 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2016.

Nonlegislative members will have a role in the interim study committee. Nonlegislative members are needed to provide practical experience, expertise, information, and data to the interim study committee. The nonlegislative members will be as follows:

- The executive director of the Colorado Association of School Executives, or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Colorado Association of School Boards, or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee;
- The Colorado director of marijuana coordination;
- The director of the Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Department of Revenue, or his or her designee;
- A representative from the marijuana industry appointed by the chair;
- A representative from the Colorado Cannabis Chamber of Commerce appointed by the vice-chair;
- A representative from SMART Colorado appointed by the chair;
- The executive director of the Department of Public Health and Environment, or his or her designee;
- The state court administrator, or his or her designee;
- A representative of the County Sheriffs of Colorado appointed by the vice-chair;
- A representative of the Colorado Chiefs of Police appointed by the chair; and
- A citizen advocate for marijuana legalization appointed by the vice-chair.

The interim study committee will need 5 bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The interim study committee would like to use video remote witness testimony to solicit input from areas outside of the Denver metropolitan area.

The interim study committee is necessary to bring the various studies and information on the legalization of marijuana that are currently available and ongoing into a single discussion. Also, it is necessary to have the members of the Colorado General Assembly more directly involved in studying these important and timely issues. My intent during the interim between the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions is to study the information that is currently available and to plan the following year's work, which will include reviewing new information that becomes available and completing the analysis and related work to narrow the focus and finalize conclusions, legislation, and suggested regulations. The studies which are partially completed or are in process and soon to be completed include: The Department of Public Safety's study on the impact of marijuana legalization on law enforcement and the Department of Public Health and Environment's study on the health impacts related to marijuana legalization.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.