

DPHHS Oversight: Agency Legislation
Purpose and Process of Committee Review
August 2014

Background

State law and legislative rules require interim committees to review proposed agency legislation and authorize early drafting of the bills. Each interim committee reviews the proposals of the agencies for which it has oversight responsibilities. The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee reviews legislative proposals of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Reasons for Review

Committee review and approval of agency legislation accomplishes several goals by:

- providing committee members with an early look at the ideas that state agencies plan to bring before them in the next session;
- reducing requests made of holdover senators and unopposed representatives to submit bill draft requests for agencies;
- allowing legislative staff to concentrate on legislator bill drafts after the election; and
- providing session committees with bills to hear in the early weeks of the session.

When committees authorize the drafting of agency bills, they are simply allowing for early drafting and pre-introduction of the bills. The authorization does not represent committee endorsement of the agency bills or a committee position on the merits of the proposals.

Review and Introduction Process

Each agency provides the appropriate interim committee with a brief description of each of its bills. Full bill drafts usually are not available when agencies are scheduled to present their legislation.

Interim committees generally authorize the agency legislation as a package.

Agencies then must submit bill drafts to the Legislative Services Division by Nov. 15 in order to retain priority status for drafting. The bills must be pre-introduced by Dec. 15. Agencies are responsible for finding legislators to sponsor their bills.