

## COMMITTEE TO CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR (NRS 218.6828)

**MISSION:** To review the general management of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, its organization and function, and prepare for the ensuing regular session of the Nevada Legislature. Specifically, the committee is making plans to ensure that the Legislature will be able to complete its work within the constitutionally mandated limit of 120 days.

The goals of the committee are to equalize the workload of the Legislature throughout the session and to ensure that the Legislature has sufficient time to deliberate and complete its work. The committee has held one meeting, at which it reviewed last session's schedule and discussed issues that need to be addressed for next session. These issues include:

1. Reapportionment This is the major change to be accommodated next session: we need to plan for reapportionment. The committee discussed several possibilities: there could be individual deadlines for resolution of components of the overall plan or an ultimate deadline for completion; redistricting bills could be specifically exempted from the rules or just subject to different rules; or reapportionment could be handled in a special session.

2. Budget Review and Bills with Fiscal Impact The two major issues discussed in this area were: (1) the failure of the money committees to accept the recommendations of the joint subcommittees; and (2) the difficulty in determining whether a bill that comes out of a non-money committee near a deadline and is re-referred to a money committee in fact has a fiscal impact (if it doesn't, by rule the bill is dead).

3. High-Volume Committees; Reduction of Committee Workload Various options were discussed for reducing committee workload. This is particularly a problem for high-volume committees that were not morning committees, though their counterparts in the other House were (i.e., Commerce and Labor in the Assembly and Government Affairs in the Senate). Options included consolidating state agency and local government bills for hearing, prioritizing bills and not necessarily hearing low priority bills, limiting the number of omnibus bills on a single subject, and requiring a consensus among disputing parties before acting on a bill.

4. Amendments The committee discussed the problem of amending a bill with an unrelated amendment, as well as amendments which would revive a bill that had been defeated earlier in the session. Both of these practices create additional work, but are logistically difficult to control.

5. Schedule It was suggested at the committee meeting that the deadline for first House passage be moved back a few days, with a corresponding change for second House passage. The time would be made up by reducing the number of days at the end of session for resolving differences between the Houses. It was also suggested that local government and state agency bills be introduced earlier. The overall schedule will be reviewed in detail.

6. Conference Committees Among the suggestions in this area were to limit the amount of time a bill may be in conference and increase LCB staff support for conference committees.

7. Memorials The committee also discussed revising the method of acting upon memorials and commendations. The committee directed staff to poll all legislators on these issues to help in formulating new rules for next session. It also requested a statistical analysis of the number of bills from each source, the number passed, and whether they were amended or passed without amendment.