

Fiscal Highlights

Legislative Action May Reduce the Number of Statutorily Required Reports - Steven M. Allred

One of the directions given by legislative leadership to committee chairs this interim is to look at ways to eliminate statutorily required fees and reports. The intent of doing so is to enhance the committees' flexibility.

Removing fees from statute allows appropriations subcommittees to review and approve them each year in an appropriations act. Over the years, new reporting requirements are gradually added to statute. As these requirements build up, the burden of reviewing them could impinge on a committee's ability to accomplish more urgent assignments.

The Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) is undergoing the same review. We recently reviewed statute and rule, and found 41 required reports to be submitted to the committee, with 15 of them required to be given regularly (mostly annually) and the remaining studies to be given once (by a scheduled date) or only when certain conditions are met.

In order to maximize the EAC's flexibility and time to hear needed reports in a timely fashion, the Analyst recommended amending the provisions of 16 reports by moving or deleting them. The committee approved [a motion](#) during its June meeting to have the Analyst work with the committee chairs to begin drafting the necessary legislation. Of course, some reports may be added to or taken from the list as we move forward.

The EAC chairs emphasized their preference is to delete nonessential reports. We've already asked the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to open bill files.