

Fiscal Highlights

Office of Administrative Rules - Brian Wikle

The 2016 Legislature passed and the Governor signed [H.B. 103](#), "Department of Administrative Services Amendments," that redesignated the Division of Administrative Rules as the Office of Administrative Rules (OAR). The Legislature appropriated a base budget of \$420,900 to OAR for FY 2017 along with \$66,700 of beginning nonlapsing balances ([S.B. 6](#), "Infrastructure and Government Base Budget," Item 16). In its budget, the office anticipated expending its base appropriation and \$20,400 of nonlapsing balances during FY 2017. The Governor's SUCCESS Initiative identified the need for Administrative Rules to have more resources available for core functions such as reviewing rule filings, publishing rules, and training agencies. Therefore, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) advocated for the division to change to an office with the primary objective of reallocating resources that had been devoted to administrative functions to the production line. Provisions in H.B. 103 were designed to affect the desired outcome within the existing budget as follows:

- Line 719 eliminated the division director position and directed that the office "be administered by a coordinator." DAS projected that this change would lead to net savings of \$40,000 annually.
- Lines 722-723 directed the coordinator to "hire ... staff necessary for the office to carry out" its responsibilities. In connection with this directive, DAS expected to eliminate an executive secretary position and to hire a publications code editor at a net cost of \$17,900.
- Lines 760-761 directed OAR to "make technological improvements to its rulemaking process." DAS intended that the excess \$22,100 in savings from the above two items would be reallocated to this purpose.

The Legislature also increased the office's FY 2016 budget by transferring \$110,000 of beginning nonlapsing balances from the Division of Finance to OAR ([S.B. 3](#), "Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations," Items 44 and 48). DAS plans to use this additional funding to replace its eRules System.