

JOINT COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Committees to study specific subjects may be created by Senate resolutions, by House resolutions, or by joint action of both houses.

Joint committees have been created by statute to meet specific needs as recognized by a majority vote of each house and approved by the governor.

Legislation creating joint committees has generally been enacted on a permanent basis to give continuity to the legislative process, as well as to meet a continuing need for legislative review of the implementation of policies established by the General Assembly.

Fiscal Review Committee. The Fiscal Review Committee, one of several statutory oversight committees, was created by statute in 1967 as a special continuing committee of the General Assembly. The committee is composed of six senators and nine representatives, elected by members of the Senate and House of Representatives respectively. In addition, the speaker of each house and the chairman of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee of each house serve as ex officio members. The function of the Committee is to conduct a continuing review of such items as revenue collections, budget requests, the recommended executive budget, appropriations, work programs, allotments, reserves, impoundments, the state debt, and the condition of the various state funds. The Committee prepares estimates of State revenues and revenues from the Tennessee Education Lottery for the State Funding Board. The Committee conducts oversight of the fiscal operations of State departments and agencies. The Committee is also responsible for preparing fiscal notes for all general



James W. White
Executive Director
Fiscal Review
Committee

bills or resolutions which are introduced in the General Assembly that have a fiscal effect on state or local government. The Committee reviews and provides comments on all proposed noncompetitive contracts exceeding \$250,000 in value and one year in length. The Committee must approve any proposed acquisition by the State of leased property prior to action by the State Building Commission. The Committee reviews all audits prepared by the Comptroller of the Treasury. The Committee conducts public hearings on significant repeat audit findings.

Members of the Fiscal Review Committee are: Senator Bill Ketron, chairman; Representative Charles Curtiss, vice chairman; Senate Speaker Ronald L. Ramsey, ex officio; Senators Doug Jackson, Finance Ways and Means Committee Chairman Randy McNally (ex officio), Reginald Tate, and Ken Yager; House Speaker Kent Williams, (ex officio); Representatives Harry Brooks, Finance Ways and Means Chairman Craig Fitzhugh (ex officio), Curtis Johnson, Steve McManus, Mary Pruitt, Donna Rowland, Tony Shipley, Curry Todd, and Eddie Yokley.

Select Oversight Committee on Corrections. The Select Oversight Committee on Corrections was created by statute during the 1985 Special Session on Corrections. The committee reviews capital expenditures for prison construction projects and Department of Correction operations and programs including alternative sentencing programs, release policies and programs, and the use of local jails for incarcerating felons. The committee is composed of seven senators and seven representatives appointed by the speaker of each house. The committee prepares written comments for the State Building Commission with regard to capital projects involving corrections and prepares written comments for standing committees of the General Assembly with regard to all bills with a potential impact on corrections.

Members of the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections are: Representative Bill Harmon, chairman; Senator Jim Tracy, vice chairman; Senators Dolores Gresham, Thelma Harper, Jack Johnson, Bill Ketron, Eric Stewart, and Bo Watson; and Representatives Charles Curtiss, Craig Fitzhugh, Dale Ford, Judd Matheny, Joe McCord, and Mike Turner.

Select Oversight Committee on Education. Created by statute during the 1984 Special Session on Education, the committee's purpose was to oversee the implementation of legislation passed by the General Assembly at that time. Due to the emphasis the General Assembly has placed on providing a quality education for every student in Tennessee, the role of the committee has been expanded to allow the committee to study any education programs, initiatives, or topics deemed appropriate to further the cause of public education. The committee is composed of nine senators and nine representatives appointed by the respective speakers of each house for a term of two years.

Members of the Select Oversight Committee on Education are: Senators Andy Berke, Dewayne Bunch, Rusty Crowe, Joe Haynes, Douglas Henry, Roy Herron, Randy McNally, Bo Watson, and Jamie Woodson; and Representatives Harry Brooks, Tommie Brown, David Hawk, Ulysses Jones, Ron Lollar, Mark Maddox, Dennis Roach, Donna Rowland, and Les Winningham. Committee officers had not been elected as of press time.

Select Oversight Committee on TennCare. This is a special committee appointed by the speaker of each house to oversee the TennCare Program that replaced Medicaid, the state's health care system for the poor, with a managed care system. TennCare offers a health care program for the Medicaid population as well as a few other eligible categories that pay for their health care on a sliding-fee-scale basis.

Members are Representative Joey Hensley, chairman; Senator Bo Watson, vice chairman; Senators Diane Black, Charlotte Burks, Rusty Crowe, Mike Faulk, Doug Jackson, and Jack Johnson; and Representatives Joe Armstrong, Mike Harrison, Steve McDaniel, Jason Mumpower, Gary Odom, and David Shepard.

Select Committee on Children and Youth. Recognized as a national leader for advancing model legislation on children and families, the Select Committee on Children and Youth was created by statute in 1987. The committee is composed of members of each house of the Tennessee General Assembly who represent the Finance, Ways and Means; Judiciary; and Education Committees, as well as the House Health and Human Resources Committee and the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee.

Members of the Select Committee on Children and Youth are: Senators Diane Black, Charlotte Burks, Mike Faulk, Dolores Gresham, Thelma Harper, Roy Herron, Beverly Marrero, Doug Overbey, and Jamie Woodson; and Representatives Tommie Brown, John Deberry, Lois DeBerry, Chad Faulkner, Beth Harwell, Sherry Jones, Debra Maggart, Richard Montgomery, and Janis Sontany. Committee officers had not been selected as of press time.

Joint Legislative Services Committee. Created in 1977, this special committee is composed of ten members, with the speaker of each house serving as a co-chairman. Two members of the majority party and two members of the minority party are appointed by the respective speaker to serve on the committee. The committee makes recommendations on management, policies, and procedures to be employed in providing services to the General Assembly or either house thereof. The committee appoints the directors of the offices of Legislative Administration, Legal Services, Legislative Information Services, and Legislative Budget Analysis.



Connie Ridley
Director, Legislative
Administration

Office of Legislative Administration: Connie Ridley, Director. This office has the responsibility to prepare the budget for the General Assembly; to maintain accounting, payroll and personnel records; to purchase and distribute supplies and materials; to disburse funds for expenses of the General Assembly; to provide maintenance services for all legislative facilities; and to administer the legislative internship program. The office is also responsible for human resources management and administration, including classification and compensation; policy development; employee relations; recruitment and interviewing; work environment issues; and compliance with state and federal employment policies for the General Assembly.



Joseph Barnes
Director, Legal Services

Office of Legal Services: Joseph Barnes, Director. This office prepares and assists in the preparation of proposed legislation and amendments, reviews legislation for form and style, enters all proposed legislation in the legislative database, submits recommendations on defective or anachronistic laws, provides legal and research staff services to legislators and committees as requested by committee chairs or the speakers, provides staff services to the Tennessee Code Commission, and advises the General Assembly on provisions of the Tennessee Code Annotated which have been repealed by implication or which have been held unconstitutional by the Tennessee Supreme Court or by the U.S. Supreme Court. During each session, the office provides summaries and abstracts of proposed legislation.



Stephen Kriegish
Director, Legislative
Information Services

Office of Legislative Information Services: Stephen Kriegish, Director. This office operates, maintains, and enhances the General Assembly computer systems and its computer network. A legislative Web site on the Internet provides current information on the General Assembly and tracks proposed legislation. Technical assistance and training are available to the members and the staff. Additionally, this office sells various publications and copies of pending legislation to a subscriber base.



David Thurman
Director, Legislative
Budget Analysis

Office of Legislative Budget Analysis: David Thurman, Director. This office is responsible for conducting detailed analyses of the state's budget and the status and condition of financing state programs. Other duties include examining and making recommendations on the fiscal effects of public policy decisions of the General Assembly, as well as monitoring federal grants and information management.

Other committees created by statute include: Ad Hoc Committee on Business Taxes, Education Lottery Task Force, Lottery 501(c)(3), Lottery Information & Recommendation, Workers' Compensation, Charitable Gaming, Health Equity Commission and Long Term Care Oversight Committee.

Council on Pensions and Insurance. The Council on Pensions and Insurance was created to develop and recommend standards and state policy relating to pensions and insurance for state and local governments within Tennessee. In addition to conducting surveys and studies, the council reviews and recommends actions

on legislation presented to the General Assembly that impacts pension and insurance matters. This joint committee is composed of the officers of the House and Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committees; three members appointed by the chairman from each finance committee; and two members, each appointed by the speaker of the respective houses. The membership also includes, on an ex officio basis, the comptroller of the treasury, the state treasurer, the commissioners of Human Resources and Finance and Administration, and the director of the retirement system.

Tennessee Code Commission. The commission is responsible for formulating and supervising the publication of the Tennessee Code Annotated, the official code as enacted by the 79th General Assembly with supplemental enactments, amendments, and new laws by subsequent General Assemblies. The commission may recommend revision of certain statutes to the General Assembly.

Current members of the Tennessee Code Commission are: Chief Justice Janice M. Holder, chairman; Joseph Barnes, Esq., executive secretary; Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Susan Short Jones, Esq; and Attorney General Robert E. Cooper, Jr.

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). TACIR was created by the General Assembly in 1978 to monitor the operation of federal, state, and local governments in Tennessee and make recommendations for their improvement. The commission is a future-oriented organization concerned with improving the efficiency and effectiveness of governments in the intergovernmental process. TACIR is a permanent, nonpartisan body whose 25 members include representatives of the General Assembly, Executive Branch, City and County governments, and private citizens. Recent policy areas and issues addressed by the TACIR include growth policy; public infrastructure needs and inventory; state and local tax system issues; local government tort liability, education financing, and accountability; and emergency communications.

In the TACIR statute (Tennessee Code Annotated §4-10-101 et seq.), the commission is directed to study, report on, and make recommendations concerning the current pattern of local government structure and its viability; the powers and functions of local governments, including fiscal powers; the allocation of state and local fiscal resources; the relationship between and among local governments and the state; the role of the state as creator of local governmental entities; and relationship improvement between state and local governments.

Current TACIR commissioners are: Senator Mark Norris, chairman; City of Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, vice chairman; Legislative: Senators Douglas Henry, James Kyle, and Jim Tracy; and Representatives Jason Mumpower, Speaker Emeritus Jimmy Naifeh, Gary Odom, and Curry Todd; Statutory: Senate Finance, Ways and Means chairman (Senator Randy McNally); House Finance, Ways and Means chairman (Representative Craig Fitzhugh); and Comptroller of the Treasury (Justin Wilson); City: Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg, Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald, and Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk; County: Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson, Tipton County Executive Jeff Huffman, Carroll County Mayor Kenny McBride, and Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters; Other Local Government: Henry County Mayor Brent Greer, Tennessee Development District; and Metropolitan Trustee Charles Cardwell, County Officials Association of Tennessee; Executive Branch: Paula Davis, Department of Economic & Community Development; and Leslie Newman, Department of Commerce and Insurance; Private Citizens: John Johnson, Morristown, and Tommy Schumpert, Knoxville.