



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 409**

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5313

*House of Representatives, April 10, 2024*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section and  
2 sections 2 and 3 of this act:

3 (1) "Program review" means an examination of programs  
4 administered by state departments and agencies to ascertain whether  
5 such programs are effective, continue to serve their intended purposes,  
6 are conducted in an efficient and effective manner or require  
7 modification or elimination; and

8 (2) "Investigation" means the investigation of any matter which is  
9 referred to the Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
10 Committee, as provided in section 2 of this act.

11 (b) There is hereby reestablished a Legislative Program Review and  
12 Investigations Committee, which shall be a permanent standing

13 committee of the General Assembly, consisting of (1) six members of the  
14 Senate, three appointed by the president pro tempore and three  
15 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, and (2) six members of  
16 the House of Representatives, three appointed by the speaker of the  
17 House of Representatives and three appointed by the minority leader of  
18 the House of Representatives. Members shall serve for a term of two  
19 years from the date of appointment.

20 (c) The initial appointments of the members shall be made not later  
21 than January 8, 2025, and thereafter appointments of the members shall  
22 be made at the beginning of each regular session of the General  
23 Assembly in the odd-numbered year. The terms of all members  
24 appointed to the committee shall end with the termination of each  
25 member's term or holding of office, whichever occurs first. Vacancies  
26 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The  
27 committee shall select cochairpersons and such other officers as it may  
28 deem necessary from among its membership.

29 (d) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum and all  
30 actions of the committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority  
31 of the full committee membership. The cochairpersons and ranking  
32 minority members of the joint standing committee requesting an  
33 investigation shall serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members of the  
34 Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee during the  
35 course of such investigation.

36 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Legislative Program  
37 Review and Investigations Committee shall:

38 (1) Direct its staff and other legislative staff available to the committee  
39 to conduct program reviews and investigations to assist the General  
40 Assembly in the proper discharge of its duties;

41 (2) Establish policies and procedures regarding the printing,  
42 reproduction and distribution of its reports;

43 (3) Review staff reports submitted to the committee and, when

44 necessary, confer with representatives of the state departments and  
45 agencies reviewed in order to obtain full and complete information in  
46 regard to programs, other activities and operations of the state, and may  
47 request and shall be given access to and copies of, by all public officers,  
48 departments, agencies and authorities of the state and its political  
49 subdivisions, such public records, data and other information and given  
50 such assistance as the committee determines it needs to fulfill its duties;

51 (4) Act on staff reports and recommend in its report, or propose, in  
52 the form of a raised bill, such legislation as may be necessary to modify  
53 current operations and agency practices;

54 (5) Consider and act on requests by members of the General  
55 Assembly, legislative committees, elected officials of state government  
56 and state department and agency heads for program reviews. The  
57 request shall be submitted, in writing, to the Program Review and  
58 Investigations Committee and shall state reasons to support the request.  
59 The decision of the committee to grant or deny any such request shall  
60 be final;

61 (6) Conduct investigations requested by joint resolution of the  
62 General Assembly, or, when the General Assembly is not in session, (A)  
63 requested by a joint standing committee of the General Assembly or  
64 initiated by a majority vote of the Program Review and Investigations  
65 Committee and approved by the Joint Committee on Legislative  
66 Management, or (B) requested by the Joint Committee on Legislative  
67 Management. In the event two or more investigations are requested, the  
68 order of priority shall be determined by the Legislative Program Review  
69 and Investigations Committee;

70 (7) Retain, within available appropriations, the services of  
71 consultants, technical assistants, researchers and other personnel  
72 necessary to assist in the conduct of program reviews and  
73 investigations;

74 (8) Originate, and report to the General Assembly, any bill it deems  
75 necessary concerning a program, department or other matter under

76 review or investigation by the committee, in the same manner as is  
77 prescribed by rule for joint standing committees of the General  
78 Assembly;

79 (9) Review audit reports after issuance by the Auditors of Public  
80 Accounts, evaluate and sponsor new or revised legislation based on  
81 audit findings, provide means to determine compliance with audit  
82 recommendations and receive facts concerning any unauthorized,  
83 illegal, irregular or unsafe handling or expenditures of state funds under  
84 the provisions of section 2-90 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
85 act;

86 (10) Meet as often as may be necessary, during legislative sessions  
87 and during the periods between sessions, to perform its duties and  
88 functions; and

89 (11) Report annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with the  
90 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on or before February  
91 fifteenth.

92 (b) The committee may, at any time, study any matter within the  
93 scope of a completed or partially completed staff report then being  
94 conducted or may, at its discretion, study and consider any matter  
95 relative to program activities of state departments and agencies.

96 (c) The identity of any public employee providing information to the  
97 committee shall not be disclosed. In the course of an investigation, all  
98 information, records of interviews, reports, statements, notes,  
99 memoranda or other data in the custody of the, or obtained or prepared  
100 by, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee or its  
101 staff shall not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 of the general  
102 statutes until the investigation is completed. Any statutory  
103 requirements of confidentiality regarding any records, data and other  
104 information submitted under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this  
105 section, including penalties for violating such requirements, shall apply  
106 to the committee, its staff and its other authorized representatives in the  
107 same manner and to the same extent as such requirements and penalties

108 apply to any public officer, department, agency or authority of the state  
109 or its political subdivisions.

110 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) In any instance in which a  
111 program review cites inadequate operating or administrative system  
112 controls or procedures, inaccuracies, waste, extravagance, unauthorized  
113 or unintended activities or programs, or other deficiencies, the  
114 department head of, or agency head of, or the appropriate program  
115 officer or official to which the report pertained, shall take the necessary  
116 corrective actions and, when the committee deems the action taken to  
117 be not suitable, the committee shall report the matter to the General  
118 Assembly together with its recommendations.

119 (b) The committee shall report the results of each investigation  
120 together with its recommendations for any further action to the General  
121 Assembly electronically, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
122 4a of the general statutes.

123 Sec. 4. Section 1-122 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

125 (a) In accordance with the provisions of section 2-90, as amended by  
126 this act, the Auditors of Public Accounts shall biennially conduct a  
127 compliance audit of each quasi-public agency's activities during the  
128 agency's two fiscal years preceding each such audit or contract with a  
129 person, firm or corporation for any such audit or audits. Each such audit  
130 shall determine whether the quasi-public agency has complied with its  
131 regulations concerning affirmative action, personnel practices, the  
132 purchase of goods and services, the use of surplus funds and the  
133 distribution of loans, grants and other financial assistance. Each audit  
134 shall include a review of all or a representative sample of the agency's  
135 activities in such areas during the relevant fiscal years. Each quasi-  
136 public agency shall pay the cost of conducting such biennial compliance  
137 audit of the agency.

138 (b) The Auditors of Public Accounts shall submit each audit report to  
139 the Governor [. Each quasi-public agency shall pay the cost of

140 conducting such biennial compliance audit of the agency] and the  
141 Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee. Not later  
142 than thirty days after receiving copies of an audit report from the  
143 Auditors of Public Accounts, the Legislative Program Review and  
144 Investigations Committee shall prepare an assessment of whether the  
145 audit report complies with the requirements of this section and shall  
146 submit the assessment and a copy of the audit report to the joint  
147 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
148 matters relating to the quasi-public agency.

149 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 1-123 of the general statutes is  
150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
151 *2024*):

152 (a) The board of directors of each quasi-public agency shall annually  
153 submit a report to the Governor and the Auditors of Public Accounts  
154 and the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee.  
155 Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (1)  
156 A list of all bond issues for the preceding fiscal year, including, for each  
157 such issue, the financial advisor and underwriters, whether the issue  
158 was competitive, negotiated or privately placed, and the issue's face  
159 value and net proceeds; (2) a list of all projects other than those  
160 pertaining to owner-occupied housing or student loans receiving  
161 financial assistance during the preceding fiscal year, including each  
162 project's purpose, location, and the amount of funds provided by the  
163 agency; (3) a list of all outside individuals and firms receiving in excess  
164 of five thousand dollars in the form of loans, grants or payments for  
165 services, except for individuals receiving loans for owner-occupied  
166 housing and education; (4) a complete set of financial statements; (5) the  
167 cumulative value of all bonds issued, the value of outstanding bonds,  
168 and the amount of the state's contingent liability; (6) the affirmative  
169 action policy statement, a description of the composition of the agency's  
170 work force by race, sex, and occupation and a description of the agency's  
171 affirmative action efforts; and (7) a description of planned activities for  
172 the current fiscal year. Not later than thirty days after receiving such  
173 report from the board of a quasi-public agency, the Legislative Program

174 Review and Investigations Committee shall prepare an assessment of  
175 whether the report complies with the requirements of this section and  
176 shall submit the assessment and a copy of the report to the joint standing  
177 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
178 relating to the quasi-public agency.

179 Sec. 6. Section 2-46 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

181 (a) The president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
182 Representatives, or a [chairman] chairperson of the whole, or of any  
183 committee of either house, of the General Assembly, or either of the  
184 chairpersons of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
185 Committee, shall have the power to compel the attendance and  
186 testimony of witnesses by subpoena and *capias* issued by any of them,  
187 require the production of any necessary books, papers or other  
188 documents and administer oaths to witnesses in any case under their  
189 examination, including any program review or investigation, as defined  
190 in section 1 of this act. Any person, summoned as a witness by the  
191 authority of either house of the General Assembly or the Legislative  
192 Program Review and Investigations Committee to give testimony or to  
193 produce books, papers or other documents upon any matter under  
194 inquiry before either house, [or] any committee of either house, of the  
195 General Assembly, [or] a joint committee of both houses, or by the  
196 Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, who  
197 wilfully makes default or, having appeared, refuses to be sworn or to  
198 answer any question pertinent to the question under inquiry, shall be  
199 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

200 (b) Any individual who is subpoenaed to appear and testify before a  
201 committee of the General Assembly or by the Legislative Program  
202 Review and Investigations Committee shall have the right to review a  
203 copy of the transcript of his or her testimony and a reasonable amount  
204 of time to question its accuracy prior to the public release of such  
205 transcript or its permanent filing.

206 Sec. 7. Section 2-47 of the general statutes is repealed and the

207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

208 No witness shall be privileged to refuse to testify to any fact, or to  
209 produce any paper, respecting which [he] such witness is examined by  
210 either house of the General Assembly, or by any committee of either  
211 house or any joint committee of both houses, or by the Legislative  
212 Program Review and Investigations Committee in any program review  
213 or investigation, as defined in section 1 of this act, upon the ground that  
214 [his] such witness' testimony to such fact or [his] production of such  
215 paper may tend to disgrace [him] such witness or otherwise render  
216 [him] such witness infamous.

217 Sec. 8. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 2-90 of the general  
218 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
219 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

220 (c) Said auditors shall audit, on a biennial basis if deemed most  
221 economical and efficient, or as frequently as they deem necessary, the  
222 books and accounts, records of operations and activities, systems and  
223 data of each officer, department, commission, board and court of the  
224 state government, all institutions supported by the state and all public  
225 and quasi-public bodies, politic and corporate, created by public or  
226 special act of the General Assembly and not required to be audited or  
227 subject to reporting requirements, under the provisions of chapter 111.  
228 Each such audit may include an examination of any relevant  
229 information concerning the department, commission, board or court of  
230 state government being audited that is in the possession or control of a  
231 private entity that has a contract with such department, commission,  
232 board or court, and such information shall be provided upon demand  
233 in a format prescribed by the auditors at no cost to the auditors or the  
234 department, commission, board or court. Each such audit may include  
235 an examination of performance in order to determine effectiveness in  
236 achieving expressed legislative purposes. The auditors shall report their  
237 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Comptroller,  
238 [and] the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
239 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state



240 agencies and the Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
241 Committee.

242 (d) The Auditors of Public Accounts may enter into such contractual  
243 agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of their duties. Any  
244 audit or report which is prepared by a person, firm or corporation  
245 pursuant to any contract with the Auditors of Public Accounts shall bear  
246 the signature of the person primarily responsible for the preparation of  
247 such audit or report. As used in this subsection, the term "person" means  
248 a natural person.

249 (e) (1) If the Auditors of Public Accounts discover, or if it should come  
250 to their knowledge, that any unauthorized, illegal, irregular or unsafe  
251 handling or expenditure of state funds or quasi-public agency funds or  
252 any breakdown in the safekeeping of any resources of the state or a  
253 quasi-public agency has occurred or is contemplated, they shall  
254 forthwith report the facts to the Governor, the State Comptroller, the  
255 clerk of each house of the General Assembly, the Legislative Program  
256 Review and Investigations Committee and the Attorney General, except  
257 that if a matter reported to the Auditors of Public Accounts pursuant to  
258 section 4-33a is still under investigation by a state or quasi-public  
259 agency, the Auditors of Public Accounts may give the agency a  
260 reasonable amount of time to conduct such investigation prior to the  
261 auditors reporting the matter to said officials and committee. (2) If the  
262 Auditors of Public Accounts decide to delay reporting such matter in  
263 accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, the auditors shall  
264 immediately notify the Attorney General of such decision. (3) Any  
265 Auditor of Public Accounts neglecting to make the report required  
266 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or any agent of the auditors  
267 neglecting to report to the Auditors of Public Accounts any such matter  
268 discovered by such agent or coming to such agent's knowledge, shall be  
269 fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than  
270 six months, or both.

271 Sec. 9. Subdivision (11) of subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the 2024  
272 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is

273 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

274 (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the  
275 Governor's official functions, the Legislative Program Review and  
276 Investigations Committee, the joint standing committee of the General  
277 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the  
278 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
279 matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing committee of the  
280 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
281 when requested in writing by any of such committees in the course of  
282 such committee's official functions, and upon a majority vote of such  
283 committee, provided no name or other identifying information is  
284 disclosed unless such information is essential to the gubernatorial or  
285 legislative purpose;

286 Sec. 10. Section 51-51l of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
287 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
288 *1, 2024*):

289 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Judicial  
290 Review Council shall investigate every written complaint brought  
291 before it alleging conduct under section 51-51i, and may initiate an  
292 investigation of any judge, administrative law judge or family support  
293 magistrate if (1) the council has reason to believe conduct under section  
294 51-51i has occurred or (2) previous complaints indicate a pattern of  
295 behavior which would lead to a reasonable belief that conduct under  
296 section 51-51i has occurred. The council shall, not later than five days  
297 after such initiation of an investigation or receipt of such complaint,  
298 notify by registered or certified mail any judge, administrative law  
299 judge or family support magistrate under investigation or against  
300 whom such complaint is filed. A copy of any such complaint shall  
301 accompany such notice. The council shall also notify the complainant of  
302 its receipt of such complaint not later than five days thereafter. Any  
303 investigation to determine whether or not there is probable cause that  
304 conduct under section 51-51i has occurred shall be confidential and any  
305 individual called by the council for the purpose of providing

306 information shall not disclose his knowledge of such investigation to a  
307 third party prior to the decision of the council on whether probable  
308 cause exists, unless the respondent requests that such investigation and  
309 disclosure be open, provided information known or obtained  
310 independently of any such investigation shall not be confidential. The  
311 judge, administrative law judge or family support magistrate shall have  
312 the right to appear and be heard and to offer any information which may  
313 tend to clear him of probable cause to believe he is guilty of conduct  
314 under section 51-51i. The judge, administrative law judge or family  
315 support magistrate shall also have the right to be represented by legal  
316 counsel and examine and cross-examine witnesses. In conducting its  
317 investigation under this subsection, the council may request that a court  
318 furnish to the council a record or transcript of court proceedings,  
319 including records and transcripts of juvenile matters pursuant to section  
320 46b-124 and records and transcripts of cases involving youthful  
321 offenders pursuant to section 54-76l, made or prepared by a court  
322 reporter, assistant court reporter or monitor and the court shall, upon  
323 such request, furnish such record or transcript.

324 (b) The Judicial Review Council shall, not later than three business  
325 days after the termination of such investigation, notify the complainant,  
326 if any, and the judge, administrative law judge or family support  
327 magistrate that the investigation has been terminated and the results  
328 thereof. If the council finds that conduct under section 51-51i has not  
329 occurred, but the judge, administrative law judge or family support  
330 magistrate has acted in a manner which gives the appearance of  
331 impropriety or constitutes an unfavorable judicial or magisterial  
332 practice, the council may issue an admonishment to the judge,  
333 administrative law judge or family support magistrate recommending  
334 a change in judicial or magisterial conduct or practice. If an  
335 admonishment is issued, the council shall (1) notify the joint standing  
336 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
337 relating to the judiciary that an admonishment was issued and provide  
338 said committee with the substance of the admonishment, including  
339 copies of the complaint file, (2) notify the Chief Court Administrator that  
340 an admonishment was issued and provide the Chief Court

341 Administrator with the substance of the admonishment, including  
342 copies of the complaint file, and (3) inform the complainant, if any, that  
343 an admonishment was issued if the admonishment is the result of  
344 misconduct alleged in the complaint. Except as provided in this  
345 subsection, the substance of the admonishment shall not be disclosed to  
346 any person or organization.

347 (c) If a preliminary investigation indicates that probable cause exists  
348 that the judge, administrative law judge or family support magistrate is  
349 guilty of conduct under section 51-51i, the council shall hold a hearing  
350 concerning the conduct or complaint. All hearings held pursuant to this  
351 subsection shall be open. A judge, an administrative law judge or a  
352 family support magistrate appearing before such a hearing shall be  
353 entitled to counsel, to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses.  
354 The council shall make a record of all proceedings pursuant to this  
355 subsection. The council shall not later than thirty days after the close of  
356 such hearing publish its findings together with a memorandum of its  
357 reasons therefor.

358 (d) No complaint against a judge, an administrative law judge or a  
359 family support magistrate alleging conduct under section 51-51i shall be  
360 brought under this section but within one year from the date the alleged  
361 conduct occurred or was discovered or in the exercise of reasonable care  
362 should have been discovered, except that no such complaint may be  
363 brought more than three years from the date the alleged conduct  
364 occurred.

365 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this  
366 section, the council shall disclose any information concerning  
367 complaints received by the council on and after January 1, 1978, and  
368 investigations and disposition of such complaints to the Legislative  
369 Program Review and Investigations Committee when requested by the  
370 committee in the course of its functions, in writing, and upon a majority  
371 vote of the committee, provided no names or other identifying  
372 information shall be disclosed.

373 [(e)] (f) On and after December 19, 1991, any judge, administrative

374 law judge or family support magistrate who has been the subject of an  
375 investigation by the Judicial Review Council as a result of a complaint  
376 brought before such council may request that such complaint,  
377 investigation and the disposition of such complaint be open to public  
378 inspection.

379 [(f)] (g) Whenever a complaint against a judge, an administrative law  
380 judge or a family support magistrate is pending before the Judicial  
381 Review Council within the final year of the term of office of such judge,  
382 administrative law judge or family support magistrate, the Judicial  
383 Review Council shall designate such complaint as privileged and shall  
384 conduct an expedited investigation and hearing so that its duties with  
385 respect to such complaint are completed in sufficient time to enable the  
386 Judicial Review Council to make its recommendation concerning any  
387 such judge to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Governor  
388 under section 51-51q in a timely manner.

389 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 2-53m of the general statutes is  
390 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
391 *2024*):

392 (a) The joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
393 cognizance of matters relating to children, in consultation with the  
394 Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office of Legislative Research and the  
395 Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, shall maintain an annual  
396 report card that evaluates the progress of state policies and programs in  
397 promoting the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable  
398 living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives.  
399 Progress shall be measured by primary indicators of progress,  
400 including, but not limited to, indicators established in the [final] report  
401 of the [former] Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
402 Committee prepared pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of public  
403 act 09-166, of state-wide rates of child abuse, child poverty, low birth  
404 weight, third grade reading proficiency, and the annual social health  
405 index developed pursuant to section 46a-131a. For each indicator, the  
406 data shall also be presented according to ethnicity or race, gender,

407 geography, disability and, where appropriate, age and other relevant  
 408 characteristics. The joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 409 having cognizance of matters relating to children shall prepare the  
 410 report card on or before January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter. On  
 411 or before January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, said committee shall  
 412 make the report card available to the public on the Internet and on the  
 413 web site of the General Assembly and shall transmit the report card  
 414 electronically to (1) members of the joint standing committees of the  
 415 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
 416 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services,  
 417 (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Education and Public  
 418 Health, (3) the Child Advocate, (4) the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
 419 and Management, and (5) the Chief Court Administrator.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	1-122
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	1-123(a)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	2-46
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	2-47
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	2-90(c) to (e)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	17a-28(g)(11)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2024	51-51l
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	2-53m(a)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 8(e)(1), "and committee" was added for accuracy.

**GAE** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	1.2 million	1.2 million
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	470,000	470,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill re-establishes the Legislative Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Committee resulting in a cost to Legislative Management of \$1.2 million in FY 25 and FY 26, and a corresponding fringe benefit cost of \$470,000 in FY 25 and FY 26.

To meet the requirements of the bill, the PRI committee will have to hire 12 staff. These staff will include one director, two chief analysts, 8 analysts, and one administrative assistant. The bill requires the PRI committee to examine state agencies to determine if they are effective, receive study requests from legislative staff and elected officials, and to undertake studies at its own initiative.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to state employee wage increases and inflation.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5313*****AN ACT REESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill re-establishes the legislative Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Committee as a 12-member permanent standing committee beginning with the 2025 legislative session. The committee previously existed from 1973 through 2016 (see BACKGROUND).

The bill generally restores the committee's previous powers and duties (e.g., the authority to access state agencies' records and files, including by subpoena). Like prior law, the bill requires the PRI Committee to examine state agency programs to determine whether they are effective, continue to serve their intended purpose, are conducted in an efficient and effective manner, or require modification or elimination. It allows the committee to receive study requests from legislators, legislative committees, elected state officials, agency heads, and the legislature as a whole. It also allows the committee to undertake studies at its own initiative.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

**COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

The bill re-establishes the PRI Committee as a 12-member permanent standing committee with three members from each caucus appointed by the caucus's leader. It requires the leaders to make initial appointments by January 8, 2025 (i.e., the start of the 2025 session), and then make subsequent appointments at the beginning of each regular session in an odd-numbered year. Members serve for two years from their appointment, and their service ends with the termination of their term or holding of office, whichever occurs first. The chairpersons and ranking members of a joint standing committee requesting an



investigation must serve as ex-officio, nonvoting PRI Committee members during the course of the investigation.

The bill requires the committee members to elect chairpersons from among the members. (In prior practice, the committee had one chairperson from each party, alternating between the caucuses each term.) Under the bill, all committee actions require a majority vote of the full committee membership, and a majority of the membership constitutes a quorum.

### **POWERS AND DUTIES**

The bill generally restores PRI's previous statutory powers and duties, including the powers and duties to:

1. obtain public records, data, information, and other assistance needed by the committee from political subdivisions (e.g., municipalities) and state agencies, officers, and authorities;
2. subpoena (by either chairperson) witnesses and require the production of books, papers, and other documents;
3. retain, within available appropriations, consultants, technical assistants, researchers, and other needed personnel;
4. review and assess reports from the state auditors and quasi-public agencies; and
5. report to the legislature annually by February 15.

As under prior law, when a program review cites certain deficiencies (e.g., inadequate operating or administrative system controls or procedures), the department or agency head, or the appropriate program officer or official, must take the necessary corrective actions. If the committee deems these actions not suitable, it must report the matter and its recommendations to the legislature.

### ***Receipt of Information***

The bill restores provisions requiring the Department of Children

and Families (DCF) and Judicial Review Council to disclose to the PRI Committee specified information when requested by the committee in writing upon a majority vote. Specifically, it adds the PRI Committee to the list of committees to which DCF must disclose records without a subject’s consent upon a majority vote of the committee. (Under existing law, it must disclose records to the Children’s, Human Services, and Judiciary committees upon a majority vote.) As under existing law, DCF may not disclose any names or identifying information unless essential to a legislative purpose.

The bill requires the Judicial Review Council to disclose information about complaints received against judges, administrative law judges, and family support magistrates, as well as the complaints’ investigation and disposition. However, the council may not disclose names or other identifying information.

Like prior law, the bill prohibits disclosing the identity of a public employee who provides information to the PRI Committee. It makes the committee’s investigation records exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act until the investigation is completed.

The bill also subjects the committee and its staff and authorized representatives to statutory confidentiality requirements for records, data, and information to the same extent that these requirements apply to other agencies and officials, including penalties for violations.

**BACKGROUND**

***PRI Committee***

The PRI Committee previously existed from 1973 through 2016. The committee’s funding was eliminated by the FY 17 budget revisions (PA 16-2, May Special Session). PA 17-60 eliminated statutory references to the committee’s powers and duties.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/22/2024)