

The Council

Legislative Council

Legislative Council Staff Update

In the newsletter last week, we introduced you to Shannon Fleischer, our new Policy and Program Evaluation Division Director. Beginning with her first day in the office, we started interviewing candidates for the policy analyst positions. We received about 60 applications from individuals around the country, and we are confident we will be able to fill the policy analyst positions quickly.

We also are advertising to fill one attorney position, and we anticipate having a new communications specialist onboard soon. We have been visiting with colleagues in other states regarding the various responsibilities and qualifications for program evaluation staff. Our next round of hiring will be to seek four program evaluators.

There has been some discussion regarding where the new staff members will be located. Although the Governor vetoed a portion of Senate Bill No. 2001 (2025) which would have stated in statute the 15th floor of the Capitol is reserved for the Legislative Council, we were assured by the Governor's staff before the veto was delivered that the 15th floor would be available for our staff expansion.

When the 2023-24 interim Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee began discussion regarding expanding the Legislative Council staff, our office began working with the Facility Management Division of the Office of Management and Budget to find available space in the Capitol. Although many executive branch agencies have continued to work remotely, either on a full-time or hybrid basis, agencies were reluctant to give up unused or under-utilized space.

In February 2025, the Facility Management Director took legislative leaders on a tour of the Capitol tower to look at space utilization. One of the areas leaders toured was the 15th floor, which has been used by just over 20 Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE) employees on a hybrid basis for the last few years. Although a conference room and an open space had been recently remodeled, much of the floor is in need of updating.

Before Senate Bill No. 2001 was amended to include a provision to make the 15th floor legislative office space, the Legislative Council spoke with representatives of CTE and the Governor's office to try to address any issues in advance of the amendment being considered. Funding was included in the CTE budget to help the department secure alternative office space and provide for moving expenses.



Because the new Legislative Council employees will begin working soon and the 15th floor office space will not be available for use by the Legislative Council until late this year, the new employees will be located temporarily in various legislative committee rooms that will not be used for interim. The plan is for the members of the Policy and Program Evaluation Division and our Administration and Operations Division to be located on the 15th floor while the Legal and Fiscal Divisions will remain in their more accessible location on the 2nd floor.

We look forward to being able to introduce the new members of our staff to you soon.

Upcoming Meetings

August

26 Judiciary

Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency

27 Energy Development and Transmission
Higher Education Funding Review

September

2 Administrative Rules

3 Advanced Nuclear Energy
Special Education Funding

4 Human Services

11 Agriculture and Water Management

18 Water Topics Overview

23 Tax Reform and Relief Advisory

25 Government Finance

30 Protection and Victim Services

October

30 Employee Benefits Programs



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