

DATE: November 19, 2007

TO: Budget and Appropriations Subcommittee  
Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Pamela Joehler, Senior Fiscal Analyst  
Legislative Fiscal Division

RE: Appropriations Statute Review Workplan

Below is a summary of the Appropriations Statute Review Project that is part of the subcommittee's workplan for the 2009 interim. A detailed outline of this project is attached to this memo.

1. What is the purpose of this project, what are we trying to accomplish?
  - a. Evaluate existing MT laws dealing with budgeting, appropriation control, and revenue estimation to determine if changes are needed
  - b. Propose statutory changes resulting from the study that address the study findings
2. What is the project scope?
  - a. Budget and appropriation control laws
  - b. Statutes relating to post RTIC revenue estimation process
  - c. Statutes specific to analysts' assignments that impact the budget and appropriations processes
3. What is the possible impact/outcome of this project?
  - a. Housekeeping/technical bill – clean up irrelevant language
  - b. Low risk/non-controversial budget policy changes
  - c. Substantive budget and appropriation policy changes
4. How long will this project take? What are the project milestones?
  - a. A report of study findings with recommended statutory changes will be presented to the June 2008 LFC meeting
  - b. A statute inventory is targeted for completion by January 20, 2008
  - c. Analysis of the inventoried statutes and development of preliminary recommendations will be completed by mid March 2008
  - d. The preliminary recommendations will need to be reviewed by legal counsel. Target completion is mid April 2008
  - e. Discussions/negotiations with OBPP, which will be initiated following the December 2007 LFC meeting (assuming the office wants to participate), will need to be completed - late April 2008
  - f. The June 2008 LFC will hear the final report and take action.
  - g. Bill drafts resulting from LFC action in June, if any, will be prepared by Legislative Services between June and September
  - h. Final bill drafts will be presented to the October 2008 LFC for approval and sponsorship