

PERMANENT CHAMBER OR PARTY STAFFING
Prepared for the Legislative Council
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Currently, temporary short-term employees who perform session work, and if they work more than 10 months, are required to participate in the Public Employees Retirement System, but generally receive no annual or sick leave, no health benefits, and no PERS.

The amount of benefits that would be provided would determine the category of employee. The definitions of part-time, temporary, seasonal, etc., determine the eligibility for benefits. If the Council makes these determinations, then appropriate legislation can be drafted to work within the state payroll, benefits, and retirement systems. This may also require authorization of additional FTEs.

Eligibility decisions

- 1) Annual and sick leave benefits, holidays
- 2) Comp time
- 3) Group health insurance
- 4) Eligibility for retirement - could investigate option to be included in statutes with legislators

Options

- We could extend the short-term work period for legislative session employees, but that may affect some non-session employees (i.e., IT modified FTEs)
- Statutes for some types of staff include whether there is eligibility for permanent status and they must apply through a competitive process.
- Because of legislative cycle, could recommend appointment for 2-year terms.
- Who would be the hiring authority? If they work for a single chamber, then the speaker/president and majority leader or caucus leaders could hire. If they work for both chambers, the leaders could make a recommendation and have the Legislative Council hire.

Cost estimates

See attachment