

- The Steering Committee on the SB 310 is seeking legislator and public comment on the following:
 1. How to build knowledge and experience to strengthen the Legislature.
 2. Would a change to the structure be more effective? (i.e. annual sessions – see sidebar) 
 3. Would changing the timing of the start of session be helpful?
 4. How to better integrate policy and budget during the session and the interim.
 5. If major changes to the legislature were to be desired, should there be some sort of commission with wider representation from the public and stakeholders to study the proposals and make recommendations?

▪ Note: a change to annual sessions would require amendment of the Montana Constitution or calling the legislature back into special session through a motion passed by a majority of legislators

SB 310: STUDY OF THE LEGISLATURE AND BUDGET PROCESS

Annual sessions vs. biennial sessions

- If there were annual sessions, is there merit to the idea of limiting one session in the biennium on general bills and the second session in a biennium on budget bills?
- If there were annual sessions, is there merit to changing to annual budgeting as well?
- If there were annual sessions, what do you think of allowing bills to carry over from the first to second session within the biennium (would require either a constitutional or statutory amendment)?
- How would a change to annual sessions affect different occupations and professions and the ability to serve?

