

PROPOSAL FOR SENATE INSTITUTIONS

Foundational Principle

Any services which serve multiple legislative staffing users should not be under the direction of one of the users and should be in a standalone unit.

Background

- Currently there are statutes creating a Legislative Council Committee and a Legislative Information Technology Committee.
- Until after 2010 the Legislative Information Technology Committee functioned under the terms of Vermont statutory law.
- Until after 2010 the sessional committee staff was part of the legislative budget.
- Post-2010, without statutory changes or authority various changes were made without input from all legislative staffing users.
- Post-2010 dictates with respect to IT and committees without input from all users has created tension among legislative staffing offices and led to less than optimal outcomes.
- In the past various current statutory functions of Legislative Council were split into various divisions — i.e. Legislative Research, Legislative Drafting, Board of Legislative Draftsmen, etc.

Proposal

The services provided by current legislative council should be split into two components — one involving drafting and research to be known as "Legislative Council" and one involving Services to be known as "Legislative Services".

Legislative Services would entail Administrative, Committee Services and **IT**. There would be a Director of Legislative Services. It contains the services utilized by multiple users. There will be a director and two deputy directors.

A Legislative Services Team comprised of the Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, Chief Counsel of Legislative Council, the Joint Fiscal Officer, and the Sergeant of Arms shall provide assistance and guidance to the Director of Legislative Services. The oversight committee for Legislative Services will be the Joint Rules Committee.

The necessary drafting entails a modest rewrite of Title 2, Chapter 13, entitled "Legislative Services". If the proposal is something the committee desires to pursue, draft legislation will be provide.

To assist in visualizing, the revised organizational chart is attached.