

## Legislative Space Issues – 3/11/21

In the private sector and in the public sector the pandemic has changed the way office space is used and will be used in the future. This will be the case in the Legislature.

As the legislature returns post-pandemic, the space needs for Legislators, staff, and the public are likely to be very different

We propose to contract with Freeman, French and Freeman (FFF) to provide a quick review and summary of the likely legislative space needs for the long term. FFF has prepared two prior space studies for the legislature. This will be a contract of under \$14,000 and will involve both interviews with Legislators and staff as well as research and expertise to produce an analysis. The report would be due mid/late April to allow the legislature to consider what actions are appropriate for moving toward a successful return.

Background: Two legislative space studies have been completed by FFF

1. January 2020 - A review of short-term space needs with the following findings:
  - space is used to maximum capacity – Over utilized in session
  - lack of meeting rooms
  - issues with various committee rooms, offices, bathrooms, etc.
  - suggested some different uses of spaces as well as shifting programs to other buildings within the capital complex (add capacity to Pink Lady or other office space, build a new office building, etc.)
  - link: [FFF January 2020 study](#)
2. August 2020 - A review related to Covid-19 needs
  - The study made recommendations for legislative space needs under a variety of scenarios (full return, hybrid model, full remote)
  - link: [FFF September 2020 Study](#)

Overall thoughts:

- A. Space needs existed pre-Covid. and were exacerbated by Covid
- B. There is a recognition of the need to start planning for the next steps for state government including legislative, judicial and executive branches
- C. Having a long-term plan will help with defining and taking short-term steps

Summary

Propose hiring FFF to do a follow up study for longer-term

- build on prior 2 reports and lessons learned from Covid
  - Talk with leaders, legislators and staff
- assess long term needs for legislative space
- Provide options and recommendations, pros and cons of options, estimated costs
- estimated time and cost: 4-6 weeks, \$10,000-\$14,000