



STATE OF VERMONT

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Legislative Management Committee
From: Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
Date: April 19, 2024
Subject: Request for Positions

2 V.S.A. § 42(a) states that the Joint Legislative Management Committee shall:

(1) prepare a proposed budget for the Legislative Branch that includes a budget for each legislative office;

(2) approve requests for new, permanent positions in staff offices as appropriate, for inclusion in the proposed Legislative Branch budget;

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This memo contains requests from the Joint Fiscal Office and the Office of Legislative Counsel for a total of three positions for FY 2025. The budgetary impact is a request for an increase of \$50,000 to JFO and \$50,000 to LC, for a total increase of \$100,000.

FY 2025 approved Legislative Branch Budget	\$22,279,123
Proposed Addition	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
New Total	\$22,379,123

FY 2025 Staffing Requests:

- 1) Create one fiscal office position to provide additional support on Education Finance.** The JFO requests an additional full-time position to assist in the analysis and fiscal work related to Education Finance. In the past, JFO has had a contractor who provided some of this work. That consultant has retired and the work related to education finance continues to grow. In addition, this is a major fiscal issue for the state and there are very few people who are able to provide thorough education finance analysis. The funding for this position would come from internal savings, including this consultant, along with a request for \$50,000.

- 2) **Create two attorney positions to provide additional staffing to the Office of Legislative Council.** The LC requests two additional full-time attorney positions. These positions will help alleviate workload pressures and increased demands on the legal staff and will provide the incoming Director and Chief Counsel with flexibility to modify the structure of the Office as appropriate, such as by creating teams that can offer greater opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and cross-training. With this approval, LC will have 4 vacant positions: 2 attorneys, 1 law clerk, and 1 paralegal. LC is proposing to fund just two of these positions in fiscal year 2025 using funds currently in the budget, a portion of LC carryforward, and a request for \$50,000.

Proposed Motions:

1. **Create one Fiscal Office position:** *Move to create one full-time exempt position in the Joint Fiscal Office.*
2. **Create two Attorney positions:** *Move to create two full-time exempt attorney positions in the Office of Legislative Counsel.*
3. **FY 2025 Budgets:** *Move to recommend adding \$50,000 to the Joint Fiscal Office budget and \$50,000 to the Office of Legislative Council budget to support these additional positions.*