

Legislative Oversight, Effectiveness, and Accountability Workgroup Update

PREPARED FOR: House Interim Committee on Rules

DATE: December 12, 2024

BY: Representative Ben Bowman and Representative Kim Wallan



Learning about Existing Oversight Tools

Meeting Dates	Agenda Topics
January 10, 2024	Group purpose and goal Draft workplan and timeline Research and resources
March 21, 2024 April 2, 2024 May 9, 2024	Existing Tools in Oregon <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Rule Review• Advice and Consent• Audit Reports (JLAC and SOS)• Budget Process• Committee Hearings• Contract Monitoring for IT• Sunset Provisions



Engaging the Experts

Meeting Dates

May 9, 2024

May 30, 2024

July 18, 2024

Agenda Topics

NCSL Center for Legislative Strengthening

- Other State Practices on Admin Rules, Sunrise/Sunset, Committees, Advice and Consent, Audits and Performance Evaluation, and Performance Measurement

Ben Eikey, Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy

- Oversight Basics, Oregon Today, Suggested Paths, Oversight Workplan

Presentations and discussion with:

- Executive Branch (DAS)
- Secretary of State Audit Division



Developing Recommendations

Meeting Dates	Agenda Topics and Presenters
June 18, 2024	Member Roundtable and Oversight Avenue Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What we've learned• Potential ideas/recommendations• Outstanding problems/challenges/opportunities to address
August 13, 2024	Consideration of themes and recommendation options
September 12, 2024 November 18, 2024	Oversight recommendations



Lessons Learned/Themes

- Develop a culture where the legislative branch understands its responsibilities to perform oversight
- Oversight of grants/moneys that go out to organizations
- Aligning rulemaking with legislation/legislative intent
- Embedding oversight mechanisms into legislation
- Establish a practice of using committees to set standards and practices for oversight
- Put to use/empower Legislative Audit Committee and build branch capacity for audits
- Connect audits to budget process and policy committees



Member Training and Guidance Recommendations

Chair/Vice-Chair Training session on January 9, 2025

- Culture change for members; understanding what is legislative oversight and that it is part of the legislative process
- Encourage building relationships with agency directors, such as personal connection or a legislative reception
- Oversight agendas and workplans (how to do)
- Administrative rule review authority (chairs receive notice of proposed rules and committee review of negative determination after adoption)
- Incorporating audit reports and recommendations into policy and budget committees

How to do oversight (one-pagers; how to set up and run an oversight hearing)



Other Internal Recommendations

All audit reports presented to policy committees

Joint Legislative Audit Committee membership – fluid membership option or including/inviting the policy and budget chairs/vice-chairs when JLAC hears relevant audits

Member training for:

- New members on rulemaking authority - does not have to be requested in all bills
- Senators and Senate Chairs/Vice-Chairs

Conversations with Legislative Counsel about:

- Incorporating oversight into legislation
- Having LC limit rulemaking authority unless necessary or requested by sponsor

Allowing JWMs Subcommittees to assign a smaller subcommittee to do budget follow-up with agencies



Other Recommendations

Oversight Option Needing More Discussion

- Agreement on the need for more oversight of third-party funds allocated by the Legislative Assembly, but more conversation is needed about what can be done

LC Request for 2025

- Creation of new audit office/officer to support the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and do audits and/or investigations for members and JLAC.



Thank you. Questions?

