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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #103

Regional Intergovernmental Affairs Positions (DOA -- General Agency Provisions)

[LFB 2013-15 Budget Summary: Page 23, #10]

CURRENT LAW

The Division of Intergovernmental Relations within the Department of Administration (DOA) is organized into three service areas: (a) resource policy; (b) intergovernmental services; and (c) plat and municipal boundary review. Through the Division, the state provides services to and coordinates information with local and tribal governments. The Division also maintains a federal-state relations office in D.C., to promote federal-state cooperation.

The Department currently funds 2.0 GPR project positions who assist in communicating with local government, businesses, and state agencies in the northern and southeastern regions of the state. The project positions have an end date of January 16, 2015.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$544,000 and 4.0 PR unclassified positions annually for the creation of regional intergovernmental affairs office director positions. Funding would be for: (a) salaries (\$352,100 annually); (b) fringe benefits (\$131,600 annually); and (c) supplies and services (\$60,300 annually). The administration indicates the positions would staff four offices in different regions of the state (in the North, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest regions).

Authorize the Secretary of the Department to maintain intergovernmental affairs offices to conduct public outreach and promote coordination between agencies and authorities. Under the bill, the Secretary may create an unspecified number of regional directors of intergovernmental affairs offices, outside the classified service, and may fix their salaries within

the pay range established for executive salary group 3 (currently between \$69,294 and \$107,407 annually).

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Department has 2.0 GPR project positions that provide intergovernmental relations services to local governments, businesses, and state agencies in the Northern and Southeastern regions of the state. The positions staff the Northern Office and Southeastern Office of DOA within the Division of Intergovernmental Relations. The positions were converted from permanent positions to project positions on January 16, 2011, and have a sunset date of January 16, 2015. Subject to s. 230.27 of the statutes, project positions may not exist for more than four years. Therefore, the positions are eliminated on the sunset date as a standard budget adjustment.

2. The administration indicates that the need for services provided by these project positions is likely to continue in the long term, and that the 4.0 permanent unclassified positions recommended by the Governor would provide for these functions on an ongoing basis. As unclassified positions, individuals serving in these positions are appointed by the hiring authority.

3. According to the administration, the objectives of providing the positions are: (a) to be a personal point of contact for local governments, businesses, and stakeholders, and bring concerns back to DOA; (b) keep local government officials informed of policy and future plans of state government; and (c) coordinate issues, communication, and major policy directives among state agencies and within DOA. To accomplish these objectives, the positions "will include frequent travel throughout their specified region in an effort to bring government to people throughout the State." In addition, providing 4.0 positions would allow DOA to extend the services to the Northeast and Southwest regions of the state. Based on the Department's arguments, the Committee could choose to approve the Governor's recommendation to provide 4.0 unclassified employees and permit the Secretary of DOA to fix the positions' salaries within the pay range established for executive salary group 3. The positions would be fully funded in both years of the biennium. [Alternative 1]

4. Currently, the 2.0 project positions providing regional intergovernmental services are GPR-funded program and policy analyst advanced positions. One of the positions is funded at \$26.34 an hour, while the other is funded at an hourly rate of \$36.34. The 4.0 positions recommended by the Governor would be funded at an hourly rate of approximately \$42.16 from program revenue derived from assessments to state agencies (the method for assessing agencies has not yet been determined). The positions would be appointed by the Secretary of DOA. It could be argued that permanent positions performing functions similar to the work being done currently could be staffed and funded similarly as well. Funding positions classified as program and policy analyst advanced could be considered a more cost-effective approach to providing these functions to the four specified regions of the state. In addition, as classified rather than unclassified positions, the positions would not be subject to appointment by each new DOA Secretary, but rather, once hired would be subject to civil service regulations. As non-appointed employees, these positions

could provide a continuity of service to the geographic regions they serve.

5. Under the bill, the current project position employees would be eligible to apply for the regional director of intergovernmental affairs positions.

6. Based on the above, the Committee could choose to provide funding and position authority for 4.0 permanent program and policy analyst advanced positions. Providing 2.0 permanent PR positions at the hourly rates at which the project positions are currently funded would cost \$209,300 PR annually. Funding for an additional 2.0 positions at the base rate for the project position classification in use would total \$156,000 PR annually. Under this alternative, bill funding would be reduced by \$178,700 PR annually. [Alternative 2]

7. Alternatively, given DOA's current staffing, the Committee could provide 2.0 PR positions. The positions could be unclassified director positions (\$272,100 PR annually) [Alternative 3a] or classified program and policy analyst advanced positions (\$209,300 PR annually) [Alternative 3b].

8. Finally, the Committee could delete the provision. It could be argued that the current project positions were created with the intention that they serve a temporary function. This would reduce funding in the bill by \$544,000 PR and 4.0 PR positions annually. [Alternative 4]

9. In addition to any of the above alternatives, the Committee could also choose to eliminate the current GPR-funded project positions. It could be argued that with creation of the additional positions under Alternatives 1 to 3, the 2.0 GPR-funded project positions (funded until January 16, 2015) would not be needed. Further, it could be argued that even if no permanent positions are provided, the project positions serve a function that could be performed with existing staff as was done prior to January, 2011. The Committee could choose, therefore, to delete the 2.0 project positions and related funding (\$179,100 PR and 2.0 GPR positions in 2013-14 and \$104,500 GPR in 2014-15). [Alternative 5]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$544,000 PR and 4.0 PR unclassified positions annually for directors of regional intergovernmental affairs offices, funded by assessments to state agencies.

2. Modify the provision to provide \$365,300 and 4.0 PR classified positions annually for permanent program and policy analyst advanced positions, to provide intergovernmental affairs services, funded by assessments to state agencies. Delete statutory language establishing a regional director of intergovernmental affairs position outside the classified service.

ALT 2	Change to Bill	
	Funding	
PR	- \$357,400	

3. Modify the provision to provide 2.0 positions (unclassified or classified):

a. Provide \$272,100 PR and 2.0 unclassified positions annually for directors of regional intergovernmental affairs offices, funded by assessments to state agencies.

ALT 3a	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
PR	- \$543,800	- 2.00

b. Provide \$209,300 PR and 2.0 classified positions annually for permanent program and policy analyst advanced positions, to provide intergovernmental affairs services, funded by assessments to state agencies. Delete statutory language establishing a regional director of intergovernmental affairs position outside the classified service.

ALT 3b	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
PR	- \$669,400	- 2.00

4. Delete the provision.

ALT 4	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
PR	- \$1,088,000	- 4.00

5. Delete \$179,100 GPR and 2.0 project positions in 2013-14 and \$104,500 GPR in 2014-15 from DOA's general program operations appropriation.

ALT 5	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	- \$283,600	- 2.00

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