

LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS TASKFORCE

Feedback from the Legislative Commissioners Office

Elimination of Public Hearing Transcripts

- There will be no record of legislative intent to be culled from any hearings, unless someone is able to transcribe the MP3 themselves.
- Are the hearings included in this policy not just committee hearings on bills, but also investigative or other special types of hearings?
- Will there be provision for special requests from legislators or the public to have certain hearings transcribed? Under what circumstances? Who will pay?
- Note CGS secs. 2-11 ("Stenographers for General Assembly committees") 2-13 ("Records of legislative proceedings") and 2-46(b) ("Witness' rights"). These sections all contemplate transcripts being available.
- A better approach than wholesale elimination of transcripts may be to allow each committee to designate two public hearings that will be transcribed. This would greatly lessen the cost of transcription, and possibly allow the committees to plan public hearings more efficiently so as to focus on the bills expected to pass.

Elimination of paper copies of legislative documents

- First, it is impossible to totally eliminate paper in the process. The paper documents are necessary to preserve an accurate record of the proceedings of the General Assembly. **However, it does appear that, rather than total elimination, a reduction in the number of copies of each document would be possible.**
- A complete list of "legislative documents" included in the elimination of printing is necessary in order to respond to the budget cut. LCO is comfortable with accessing many of the "daily documents" online - the Bulletin, list of bills and journals. Calendars may also be accessed online, except on session days, when a print copy is really necessary for our office.

- The terms of the contract with the printer should be checked to ascertain whether eliminating legislative documents will ultimately save any money since, in the absence of those, individual printers will be used to print out copies.
- In particular among the legislative documents, photo offsets of the bills are central to the committee process, as staff and legislators use these in hearings, screening and meetings. The offsets are smaller and double-sided, as opposed to the 8 1/2 x 11 sheets staff will now print out. Not all printers are able to print double-sided copies.