



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Craig Harper, JBC Staff (303-866-3481)
Date: March 17, 2026
Subject: Placeholders for the Legislative Appropriation Bill Package

The Executive Committee has approved the introduction of three bills impacting the Legislative Branch budget. Staff recommends that the Committee adopt placeholders related to each of these bills for budget balancing purposes. In total, the recommended placeholders include appropriations of \$73,586,694 General Fund for FY 2026-27 and a transfer of \$12.0 million from the Legislative Department Cash Fund to the General Fund in FY 2025-26.

H.B. 26-1333 (Legislative Appropriation Bill)

The annual [Legislative Appropriation Bill](#) provides the vast majority of funding for the Legislative Branch. The introduced bill includes appropriations totaling \$75,769,843 total funds, including \$73,983,163 General Fund, \$5,000 cash funds, and \$1,781,680 reappropriated funds. The bill reflects a total of 450.6 FTE spread across the various legislative agencies.

Staff recommends that the Committee approve a placeholder for \$73,983,163 General Fund but also requests permission to adjust the placeholder based on future changes to the bill. For example, staff anticipates that amendments are likely after the JBC makes employee compensation common policy decisions for the Long Bill.

H.B. 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)

Similar to S.B. 25-199 (Suspend Legislative Interim Committees), [H.B. 26-1331](#) suspends most interim committees for 2026 interim and limits expenditures for committees that do meet (e.g., limiting the number of bills and not allowing per diem and travel expenses for members serving on committees). The bill reduces General Fund appropriations for FY 2026-27 by \$396,469 and staff recommends adopting a placeholder for that reduction. Like the Long Bill, the Legislative Appropriation Bill (above) budgets to current law. As a result, the Legislative Appropriation Bill restores funding for interim committees in 2026 (after the pause for 2025), and this bill then eliminates that funding.

H.B. 26-1332 (Legislative Department Cash Fund)

[House Bill 26-1332](#) makes several changes to the statutes governing the Legislative Department Cash Fund. For the purposes of this memorandum regarding placeholders, **the bill transfers \$12.0 million from the cash fund to the General Fund in FY 2025-26, and staff recommends adopting a placeholder to account for that transfer.**

Beyond the transfer, the bill also sets an annual limit on the balance of the cash fund. The limit is set at \$8.0 million at the end of FY 2025-26. The limit then grows in subsequent years proportionate to the percentage change in appropriations to the Legislative Department in the annual Legislative Appropriation Bill. The primary source of revenue to the cash fund is General Fund reversions from the Legislative Department budget. Under this bill, if the cash fund is at its limit, then any additional reversions would go to the General Fund rather than growing the balance of the cash fund.