



Joint Budget Committee Staff

Nonpartisan Budget Analysis for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
From: Amanda Bickel and Craig Harper, JBC Staff
Date: January 20, 2026
Subject: Procedures for amendments to JBC bills that are Recommended by JBC Staff

This memo proposes a small change to the current practice for staff-recommended amendments to JBC bills after the JBC has voted to introduce a JBC bill.

Current Practice: Changes to JBC Bills After Vote to Finalize for Introduction

Changes between vote to finalize for introduction and introduction: Under the JBC's rules, the JBC only introduces a bill if all six members vote to introduce. When voting to finalize a bill for introduction, the motion typically authorizes staff to make technical changes, add appropriation clauses, and make any other adjustments specified by the members during their vote.

If, after the JBC votes to finalize a bill for introduction, JBC or OLLS Staff identify errors or necessary changes, OLLS Staff determines if the necessary corrections are sufficiently technical to address before the bill is introduced and without further review by the JBC. If OLLS determines the changes aren't technical, an amendment is needed after introduction or the necessary corrections can be made and approved by the JBC before introduction.

Changes after introduction: If JBC Staff identify changes that require an amendment to the bill as introduced, JBC Staff work with the bill's prime sponsors to have OLLS Staff draft the amendment. In almost all cases, amendments are prepared for and offered in the appropriations committees and include a cover memo for the prime sponsor that explains the change.

Currently, JBC Staff must request drafting authority from a legislator before OLLS Staff will draft an amendment to a JBC bill for JBC Staff.

Recommendation

JBC Staff recommends that the JBC give JBC Staff drafting authority to request amendments to all JBC bills for changes recommended by JBC Staff. This will cut out one step of the process—the need to obtain drafting authority from a member—and allow OLLS Staff to prepare amendments more quickly.

- Procedurally, **the JBC could vote now that this policy will apply to all bills unless it votes to make an exception**, which it could do for any bill. Alternatively, the JBC could make this decision for every bill it votes to introduce and could do this when it determines sponsorship, chamber of origin, and permission to make technical amendments prior to introduction.
- Amendments requested by JBC Staff will be drafted under the name of a prime sponsor for the applicable JBC bill, unless OLLS staff receives other direction.
- **A JBC member will still need to move any amendment in committee or on the floor.**
- JBC Staff will ensure that all JBC members receive copies of amendments requested by JBC Staff and a description of what any such amendment does. This may be via email. In most cases, changes recommended by JBC Staff are technical. *If JBC Staff believes that a proposed change could be controversial, JBC Staff will make sure to highlight this for all JBC members.* JBC Staff assumes that JBC members will confer with their JBC colleagues about any amendments they think may be controversial or to which they object.

This procedure change is solely for amendments to JBC bills that are recommended by JBC Staff. Any member—JBC or otherwise—may request an amendment to a bill (JBC bill or otherwise), and, depending upon the type of bill or amendment, this may be drafted by OLLS or JBC Staff as a confidential amendment for the member.