

HB 2659 -- LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

SPONSOR: Messenger

This bill authorizes the Chair of the House Budget Committee to employ a director to assume administration of the legislative information center. The director of the center may, within the limits of appropriated funds:

- 1) Employ and supervise employees of the center, without regard to political affiliation, who shall be professionals possessing knowledge and experience in the functions and policy of state government;
- 2) Contract with public and private for analysis and study of current governmental and budgetary laws; and
- 3) May provide reports and other publications for the library of the center, and may prepare and provide reports to the General Assembly. The chair of the committee may request research regarding any issue related to state government.

The director shall conduct program evaluations of state agencies including but not limited to evaluations involving budget and accountability. Any state agency or agency that receives state funding subject to a program evaluation must:

- 1) Fully cooperate with the director and staff of the legislative information center, providing all necessary information for and assistance with the evaluation;
- 2) Provide all agency records, unless expressly declared by law to be confidential, for inspection by the director and staff of the legislative information center; and
- 3) Afford the center ample opportunity to observe agency operations.

All evaluations must be completed within a reasonable amount of time unless an extension is authorized by the Chair of the House Budget Committee, but progress reports must be made at least annually.