

Governor's Reorganization Process

Description of the Process

The Governor is authorized in statute to examine the organization of executive branch agencies and determine what changes may be necessary to promote more efficient and effective government services. The Legislature has granted the Governor the authority to reorganize those functions whenever it is in the public interest.

The reorganization process provides for a streamlined public and legislative review of the proposal. The reorganization process can be used to consolidate, transfer or abolish programs and agencies. The process can be used to create new agencies, but the process cannot be used to create new functions.

The reorganization process is permitted in Article V, Section 6 of the California Constitution. The statutory authority is in [Government Code Sections 12080-12081.2](#).

ROLE OF THE LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

The Little Hoover Commission's role in the reorganization process is described in [Government Code Section 8523](#). The law requires the Governor to submit any reorganization plan to the Little Hoover Commission "at least 30 days prior" to submitting the plan to the Legislature. Before submitting the proposal to the Little Hoover Commission, the plan must be submitted to Legislative Counsel for drafting into bill language.

The Little Hoover Commission's role in the reorganization process is only advisory. The Little Hoover Commission reviews and submits a report to the Governor and the Legislature within 30 days of the plan being submitted to the Legislature. In other words, the Little Hoover Commission typically has 60 days to review a plan and complete its report.

The Little Hoover Commission conducts one or more public hearings, providing a forum for affected agencies, constituencies and interest groups to comment on the proposal. In addition to invited witnesses, the Little Hoover Commission hears testimony from other interests or members of the public who would like to testify. The Little Hoover Commission also welcomes written comments.

The Little Hoover Commission assesses the plan based on its broad mandate to assist policy-makers in “**promoting economy, efficiency and improved service in the transaction of the public business.**” The Little Hoover Commission makes a recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature as to whether it believes the reorganization plan should go into effect. The Little Hoover Commission sometimes offers recommendations for how the plan could be strengthened or measures that should be taken if the plan is implemented.

Previous Reorganization Plans Reviewed by the Little Hoover Commission

Since 1968 five governors have proposed 29 executive reorganization plans. The most recent ones include the creation of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the merger of the State Police with the California Highway Patrol, the merger of the State Fire Marshal with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, energy policy reorganization, and a plan for regulatory oversight of managed health care.

Role of the Legislature

A reorganization plan may be delivered to the Legislature at any time during a regular session. The Legislature, however, must have 60 calendar days of a continuous session to consider the plan. The Governor’s plan becomes effective on the 61st day after it has been given to the Legislature unless either the Senate or the Assembly adopts by majority vote a resolution rejecting the plan. Actual statutory language to enact the reorganization is processed in the following year, but the reorganization is effective even without the statutes being on the books.

Submit Comments on the Governor's Reorganization Plans

The Commission looks forward to hearing your perspective on the Governor's Reorganization Plans. Please specify which plan you are discussing. Comments should begin with a brief summary of your main points regarding the proposal, followed by details to support those points. The Commission is especially interested in the following:

- What considerations resulted in the current organizational design?
- How have those considerations changed?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current structure?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed structure?

Your thoughts will be most useful to the Commission if expressed thoroughly, but concisely. Email little.hoover@lhc.ca.gov to submit comments by e-mail.