



Chaptered Study Committees

- Codified in session law
- Legislators are the only members
- Usually 5-7 members
- Work sessions held, experts invited
- Final report due by November 1 of year 2
- Repealed with final report submission

Vs.

Statutory Study Commissions

- Codified in the RSAs
- Includes public and legislative members
- Maximum of 15 members*
- Work sessions held, experts invited
- Report deadlines are specified in RSA
- Repealed 5 years after the effective date

Governed by RSA 14:49

*Legislators shall constitute a majority

Processes

01.

There are many resources available to you for a self study. Contact OLS* Research for assistance.

02.

When a study is worked under a Policy Committee, this falls within normal work processes, and the Chair will coordinate.

03.

When a Chaptered Study or Statutory Study is created:

- ✓ Must pass House, Senate, and Governor must sign into law.
- ✓ If interested in serving, let the Appointing Authorities know.
- ✓ Appointments take months, and you may not be appointed.
- ✓ Appointment notices emailed; first named member works with HCS** using standard process.
- ✓ Organizational meetings scheduled weeks/ months later.



The General Court of New
Hampshire, c 2023

603-271-3600

*Office of Legislative Services

**House Committee Services

<https://gencourt.state.nh.us/orientation/cac>

**THE GENERAL COURT OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE**



**A GUIDE TO
LEGISLATIVE
STUDY
COMMITTEES
AND STATUTORY
COMMISSIONS**

Study Purpose

A legislator, constituent or an organization may have a need to study a particular subject matter.

This need may be to better understand the subject matter, to solve a problem or set of related problems, and to determine if legislation is needed to address the issues.

Studies are helpful when the subject matter has not already been studied sufficiently and when the scope is determined to be outside of a Policy Committee's regular work. They are most effective when using the best method of study and a standard process.

Where to Begin

1. **Clarify the need.**
 - Define the problem to solve
 - Gather information and questions
2. **Discuss with OLS* Research.**
 - Obtain background information (e.g. similar studies, related Committees or Commissions)
 - Obtain relevant legislative history
3. **Discuss with prior Study Committee or Commission members.**
4. **Review with Policy Committee Chair.**
5. **Choose the best method of study.**

Methods of Study

- ✓ Self study, working independently
- ✓ Within the relevant Policy Committee
- ✓ Within a Subcommittee of the relevant Policy Committee
- ✓ Within the relevant State Agency
- ✓ A Chaptered Study Committee
- ✓ A Statutory Study Commission

Best Method

The Best Method of Study will depend on your subject, prior studies, and your timeframe. Consider the following:

- Self Studies and Policy Committee* work can begin immediately
- Chaptered/ Statutory Committees can take several months to set up**
- Utilizing Policy Committees helps align subject matter with experts and create work efficiencies
- All methods allow for expert testimony/ participation
- All methods allow for stakeholder testimony/ participation

Model Legislation

If a Chaptered or Statutory Study is your chosen method, adhere to RSA 14:49, use the LSR Study Template, and consider the following:

- Committee/ Commission names should be clear and concise
- Ensure outside groups are willing to serve before naming as members
- The appointing authority for each member must be listed in the bill
- Stakeholders can testify in lieu of being appointed (fewer members makes a quorum easier to meet)

*With the Chair's agreement

**Requires legislation

