

FACT SHEET

Public Accounts Committee Amendment Bill 2025

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* (the Act) to increase the Public Accounts Committee (the Committee)'s membership from six to eight; stipulate that at least one member of any political party that has three or more members in the House of Assembly is to be a member of the Committee; and increase the quorum requirement from four to six.

The Committee plays an important role in the management of Tasmania's public sector finances. Under the Act, the Committee must inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to:

- a) the management, administration or use of public sector finances; or
- b) the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest.

The Committee may also inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on:

- a) any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate; and
- b) any matter referred to the Committee by the Auditor-General.

Given its role, it is important the Committee's membership is broad enough to reflect the composition of both Houses of Parliament. The current Act provides for six members, and this has not been updated since the expansion of the House of Assembly from 25 to 35 members in 2024.

This Bill proposes to increase the number of Committee members from six (three from the House of Assembly and three from the Legislative Council) to eight (four from the House of Assembly and four from the Legislative Council).

It will also require that, in relation to Committee members from the House of Assembly, at least one member of any political party that has three or more members in the House of Assembly is to be a member of the Committee. This provision is intended to ensure, the Committee reflects a diversity of views from the House of Assembly.

Finally, the Bill also proposes to increase the number of members who constitute a quorum of the Committee from four to six. This is proportionate to the increase in the number of Committee members and will ensure the Committee does not meet without the majority of members present.