

**SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE
LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION AND
COUNTY GRAND JURIES**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Little Hoover Commission</i>	<i>County Grand Jury</i>
FORMATION	Members appointed by Governor and legislative members.	Jurors selected by a majority of county judges, typically from a list derived by the county jury commissioner.
COMPOSITION; TERM	Composed of 13 members, 4 of which are sitting legislators. Public members serve terms of 4 years, while legislative members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. No more than 5 of the 9 public members may be from the same political party and legislators from each body must be from different parties.	Composed of anywhere from 11 to 23 jurors, depending on size of county. Jurors serve a term of one year, unless extended for a second one year term by the Presiding Judge.
JURISDICTION; POWERS	<p>May examine in detail the structure, organization, and functions of every department, agency, and instrumentality in the executive branch of state government, and all provisions of law relating to appropriations of public funds.</p> <p>May not examine the administration or management of the courts in the judicial branch except as relates to appropriations of public funds.</p>	<p>Shall inquire into public offenses committed or triable within the county, and may present an indictment to the court upon a finding of sufficient evidence.</p> <p>Shall investigate or inquire into county matters of civil concern, such as the needs and operations of county departments and the methods employed by such entities in discharging their governmental duties.</p>

<i>Item</i>	<i>Little Hoover Commission</i>	<i>County Grand Jury</i>
<p>JURISDICTION; POWERS (continued)</p>	<p>Is required to timely analyze and respond to all Governor-proposed reorganization plans.</p> <p>May utilize subpoena power to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, papers, reports, and other documents.</p>	<p>May examine the books and records of specified public entities -- such as special districts, incorporated cities, and redevelopment agencies -- and may make any necessary reports and recommendations.</p> <p>May inquire into the case of any person imprisoned in the county jail on a criminal charge and not indicted.</p> <p>Shall inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county.</p> <p>Shall inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers within the county.</p> <p>Shall ascertain whether the provisions of law governing the offices, functions and duties of county government have been complied with.</p> <p>May utilize subpoena power to compel testimony of witnesses and may inspect books and financial records of agencies subject to the Grand Jury's jurisdiction.</p>

<i>Item</i>	<i>Little Hoover Commission</i>	<i>County Grand Jury</i>
PROCESS	<p>Commission selects topics brought to it from citizens, legislators, or other sources.</p> <p>Under the direction of a subcommittee, conducts research by bringing key players together for discussion, contacting experts, reviewing academic literature, and interviewing those closely affected.</p> <p>Subcommittee identifies key issues and holds public hearings in an open forum setting to discuss all sides of the issue.</p> <p>Subcommittee submits a draft report containing its findings and recommendations to the full Commission; Commission may make changes before adopting the report.</p>	<p>Grand Jury investigates complaints brought to it from citizens, local agencies, district attorneys, and other sources. Complaints are kept strictly confidential.</p> <p>Grand Jury typically establishes committees based on topic areas, and the appropriate committee reviews, analyzes, and reports on complaints received. Grand Jury proceedings take place privately and jurors must honor the secrecy of the proceedings.</p> <p>Committee presents its findings to the full Grand Jury, which is then required to issue a final report on the matter.</p>
FOLLOW-UP	<p>Commission works with legislators during following legislative sessions to implement the report's recommendations.</p>	<p>Public agencies reviewed or investigated are required to respond in writing to matters addressed in the Grand Jury's report within a statutory time period.</p>

<i>Item</i>	<i>Little Hoover Commission</i>	<i>County Grand Jury</i>
FOLLOW-UP (continued)	<p>Commission contacts the relevant agencies or departments affected by the report to determine the status and effect of the recommendations contained in the report.</p> <p>Follow-up study may be conducted by the Commission if the suggested reforms are not fully enacted or if the issue studied warrants revisiting.</p>	<p>The Grand Jury (or the court if the term of the Grand Jury has expired) may furnish a succeeding grand jury with certain types of information gathered during its term of service. Typically, the Court is the entity which ensures that the recommendations or reforms proposed by the Grand Jury are subsequently addressed.</p>

Summary of Key Differences Between the Little Hoover Commission and County Grand Juries:

- 1) *Scope of Review.* The Little Hoover Commission addresses state issues, typically those of broad importance and application throughout the state; County Grand Juries address local issues that generally are very specific in nature and that do not have systemic implications.
- 2) *Process.* The Little Hoover Commission operates a very public process from beginning to end, encouraging participation from both outsiders and those directly affected by the study. Conversely, County Grand Juries operate in strict privacy, allowing only the necessary participants to be included in the process.
- 3) *Follow-Up.* The Little Hoover Commission, through continuity in its operations and staffing, continues to ensure that its reforms are enacted long after its reports are issued, and when necessary, performs follow-up studies to revisit issues raised in its reports. County Grand Juries, because of their limited term and lack of continuity of members, typically do not have a regimented process in place to ensure that its recommendations are implemented after its final report is issued.

Summary of Key Differences Between the Little Hoover Commission and Statewide Grand Juries:

- 1) *Scope of Review.* The primary difference between the Little Hoover Commission and Statewide Grand Juries lies in the jurisdiction of the two entities. As noted above, the Little Hoover Commission studies issues of statewide importance and application; however, those issues are limited to being non-criminal in nature¹. With respect to Statewide Grand Juries, the vast majority of jurisdictions within the United States that utilize a statewide grand jury do so for the limited purpose of investigating criminal matters, such as intrastate drug trafficking.
- 2) *Process.* As with the County Grand Jury system, Statewide Grand Juries typically operate in an closed environment, shielded by the inherent secrecy of the process. Conversely, the heart of the Little Hoover Commission's process is outside participation and public input.
- 3) *Follow-Up.* The difficulty that County Grand Juries face with respect to the follow-up of their recommendations is also faced by Statewide Grand Juries. The limited term of existence and the lack of continuity in staffing of Statewide Grand Juries hinders their ability to ensure that their recommendations are ultimately implemented.

¹ In the rare instance where a Commission's study or investigation reveals activity which is clearly criminal in nature, the Commission will refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office. If, during the course of a study, questionable activity is discovered which could potentially be considered criminal in nature, the Commission will transfer the matter to the Bureau of State Audits for further action. The Bureau of State Audits is a State agency whose charge is to provide independent audits of the programs and fiscal operations of State government. While the Bureau is under the Little Hoover Commission's general direction from an organizational standpoint, these two entities are operated as distinct entities and have significantly different statutory mandates.