

February 25, 1955.
Roads and Highways.

H. J. R. 15

By HAGEDORN, FREED, BAUMHOVER,
CARLSEN, BERGESON, CHAMBERS,
DENMAN, DUFFY, FALVEY, FROM-
MELT, HOWARD, LOSS, M c C O Y,
OWEN, REPPERT, SWISHER and
WELLS.

Passed House, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Joint Resolution creating a special committee to make a study and investigation of the state highway commission in relation to its function, its conduct, operation, use and expenditure of funds, the legislative and budgetary control of highway funds, and the laws of this state pertaining to such matters.

WHEREAS, our highway construction and improvement program is lagging far behind present and future needs, and

WHEREAS, various pressure groups are demanding increased appropriations for highway purposes, and

WHEREAS, no plan or explanation has been offered for the use of funds to be appropriated, and no plans of future construction and expenditure are available prior to allocation, and

WHEREAS, "need" allocations of funds have not resulted in improvement of secondary roads in need areas, and

WHEREAS, "pay-as-you-go" under present administration of funds available has not brought our highway program up to date, and

WHEREAS, present allocation of road funds does not truly reflect "need" as based on population, use, area and present existing road conditions, and

WHEREAS, staff engineering and clerical help in the state highway commission is far in excess of maintenance help and far in excess and out of proportion to construction per county, and

WHEREAS, it has been rumored that certain counties have improperly spent construction money for equipment and have

transferred money allocated for construction for maintenance, and

WHEREAS, there are no standard plans and specifications or use of standard spans in bridge construction and, whereas, present road bridge construction cost is excessive, and

WHEREAS, rumors persist of improper conduct on the part of the state highway commission in the awarding of construction contracts and purchase of maintenance equipment and other purchases, and

WHEREAS, there is no legislative or budgetary control over the funds allocated to the state highway commission except those funds which have been specifically allocated to primary and secondary road funds, and

WHEREAS, it is incompatible with good business principle and our democratic form of government to allow the delegation of authority to expand and control the expenditure of such funds, which amount to approximately \$80,000,000.00 per year, without budgetary control, or prior approved plans submitted to the duly elected representatives of the state of Iowa and their appropriate committees for approval, now therefore,

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. A special committee is hereby created to
2 be known as the State Highway Commission Investigation and
3 Study Committee which shall be a bipartisan committee of
4 nine (9) members, three of whom shall be members of the House,
5 appointed by the speaker of the House; three of whom shall be
6 members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the
7 Senate, and three of whom shall be outside the legislature
8 appointed by the governor of the state of Iowa.

1 Sec. 2. The committee shall have full power and authority
2 to investigate, inquire into and examine all matters relating
3 to the conduct of the state highway commission, the expenditure

4 of highway funds, the coordination of the state and county road
5 programs, funds, personnel and equipment, and the feasibility
6 of bringing road use funds under budgetary control, and shall
7 make recommendations for changes deemed advisable for proper
8 control of state road use funds and in general inquire into and
9 examine every matter and thing relating to the state highway
10 commission and road used funds.

11 Activities shall cover, among other things, the following:

12 1. The present system of expenditure of road use tax
13 funds

14 2. Rumored acts of misconduct on the part of the
15 state highway commission

16 3. Reduction of cost of road construction

17 4. Reduction of staff engineer and clerical help
18 of the state highway commission

19 5. Feasibility of coordinating state and county
20 employees in the interest of avoiding unnecessary
21 duplication of effort and expense.

1 Sec. 3. Said committee shall choose a chairman, adopt
2 rules for conduct of its proceedings, and is hereby empowered to
3 employ a secretary and such other employees as are necessary for
4 the proper conduct of the business of the committee.

5 It is hereby empowered to employ such expert assistance as
6 is deemed necessary for the studies and investigations herein
7 authorized. The committee may hold public hearings, subpoena
8 witnesses and compel the production of books, documents and

9 papers, pertaining to investigations.

10 Witness shall be entitled to witness fees and to actual
11 traveling expense while attending such committee hearings, such
12 expense to be approved by the committee, but no Iowa public
13 employee shall be entitled to witness fee but may be allowed
14 actual expenses.

15 The committee shall have access to all public records and
16 shall be given the cooperation of all public officials, including
17 the state highway commission, and shall generally have all the
18 powers of a joint legislative committee. The committee may at
19 any time, or from time to time, be divided into subcommittees
20 having the power to hold hearings and conduct investigations in
21 any part of the state. The committee, or any member thereof, or
22 the secretary of the committee shall have the power to administer
23 oaths.

1 Sec. 4. The committee shall have the cooperation of the
2 state highway commission and shall be authorized to call upon any
3 department of the state government for assistance in the obtaining
4 of information deemed useful to the committee.

1 Sec. 5. Should any vacancy occur in the committee, the gov-
2 ernor is empowered to fill it by appointment, in case the vacancy
3 is that of a member appointed by him. In case of a vacancy in the
4 legislative membership, the vacancy shall be filled by the appoint-
5 ment from the representative body to which such member of the
6 committee belonged, by the speaker of the House or president of
9 the Senate, as the case may be. Members of the committee shall

8 be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred by
9 them in the discharge of their duties. Members of the committee
10 appointed by the governor shall receive compensation of twenty
11 dollars (\$20.00) per day for days actually engaged in the work of
12 the committee. Legislative members of the committee shall receive
13 as compensation such amounts as the Fifty-seventh General Assembly
14 may allow. The committee shall have power to fix the compensation
15 of its secretary and other assistants and shall be provided a suit-
16 able office for the conduct of its investigations by the state
17 executive council.

1 Sec. 6. The committee shall be appointed as promptly
2 as possible after the enactment of this measure and shall
3 organize as soon thereafter as possible. It shall make
4 its final report, including drafts of proposed bills, to
5 the governor on or before January 1, 1956; provided,
6 however, the governor may authorize such extensions of
7 time to the committee as are necessary. Thereupon the
8 governor shall cause to be printed the necessary number of
9 copies of said report, including drafts of proposed bills,
10 and cause copies of the same to be mailed to the present
11 members of the general assembly as soon as such report has
12 been completed, the expense thereof to be paid from funds
13 herein appropriated. The committee shall be discharged from
14 its duties when it has submitted its final report to the
15 governor and the legislature. The governor is hereby
16 requested within thirty (30) days after the final report is

17 submitted to call a special session of the general assembly
18 for consideration of the report of the special committee and
19 for only such other action as the governor may recommend.

1 Sec. 7. There is hereby appropriated from any funds of
2 the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of
3 thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), or so much thereof as may
4 be necessary, to carry out the proposals of this act and for
5 compensation and expenses of such committee and its members
6 as herein provided, to be paid out of the state treasury on
7 vouchers to be approved by the chairman or secretary of the
8 committee and audited according to law.

1 Sec. 8. This Joint Resolution, being deemed of
2 immediate importance, shall take effect and be in full force
3 from and after its passage and publication in Gowrie News,
4 a newspaper published at Gowrie, Iowa, and in Fonda Times,
5 a newspaper published at Fonda, Iowa.