

April 15, 1955.  
Sifting Committee.

**H. J. R. 19**  
By SMITH, HULTMAN, FREED,  
PETRUCELLI, CONN, CARL-  
SEN, SAR.

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

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Joint Resolution creating a special committee to study the advisability of state regulation of public utilities engaged in the business of producing or distributing electricity, gas, water, or steam, and the transmission of messages by telephone or telegraph; to make special inquiries into existing regulations and regulatory agencies in the state of Iowa and other states; to study the question of revision, improvement, or additions to existing laws to effectuate results of the findings of the committee; and to make such recommendations to the governor and to the next session of the General Assembly as may be decided upon by the committee; and to make an appropriation therefor.

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

- 1 Section 1. A special committee is hereby created to be
- 2 known as the Iowa public utilities study committee, which shall
- 3 be a bipartisan committee of six (6) members, three (3) of whom
- 4 shall be members of the house appointed by the speaker of the
- 5 house, and three (3) of whom shall be members of the senate
- 6 appointed by the president of the senate.
- 1 Sec. 2. The committee shall have full power and authority
- 2 to investigate, inquire into, and examine all matters pertaining
- 3 to the interests, needs, and desires of the people of Iowa

4 regarding state regulation of public utilities, to investigate and  
5 examine all matters pertaining to the establishment of rates,  
6 safety and service practices and standards, operations practices,  
7 accounting methods, procedures for issuance of securities,  
8 calculation of stockholder, bondholder, member or owner dividends,  
9 interest or refund, and, in general, to inquire into and examine  
10 every matter and thing whatsoever pertaining to regulation of  
11 public utilities herein described.

12 Activities of the committee shall cover, among other things,  
13 the following:

14 1. A review of the existing regulation of public utilities  
15 in Iowa and of the public sentiment concerning state regulation.

16 2. A study of the regulation of public utilities in other  
17 states, including effectiveness, trends in development,  
18 administration and organization thereof, and financial support of  
19 such regulatory agencies.

20 3. A study of existing political subdivisions which might  
21 incorporate public utilities regulation within their authority  
22 and the revisions in administration and organization necessary to  
23 implement such additional authority.

24 4. A development of recommendations based on the findings of  
25 the study committee and draftsmanship of bills deemed necessary by  
26 the committee to effectuate their recommendations.

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

4 necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the committee.  
5 It is hereby empowered to hold public hearings, invite witnesses  
6 and to employ such expert assistants as may be deemed necessary  
7 for the studies and investigations herein authorized. Witnesses  
8 shall be entitled to witness fees and to actual traveling expenses  
9 while attending upon the committee, such expenses to be audited  
10 and approved by the committee, but no Iowa public employee shall  
11 be entitled to witness fees, but may be allowed actual and  
12 necessary expenses. The committee shall have access to all  
13 public records and shall be given the cooperation of all public  
14 officials and shall generally have all the powers of a joint  
15 legislative committee. The committee may, at its discretion, be  
16 divided into subcommittees of two (2) or more members, any of  
17 said subcommittees having the power to hold hearings and conduct  
18 investigations in any part of the state. The committee shall, at  
19 its discretion, cause studies to be made of public utilities  
20 regulatory systems and administration in other states, and may  
21 designate subcommittees for the purpose of studying regulatory  
22 methods in states other than Iowa. Any member of the committee,  
23 or the secretary of the committee, shall have the power to  
24 administer oaths.

1 Sec. 4. The committee shall have the cooperation of the  
2 Iowa state commerce commission and its council in the performance  
3 of its duties, and shall be authorized to call upon any department  
4 of the state government, including state educational institutions,  
5 for assistance in the obtaining of information deemed useful to

6 the committee.

1     Sec. 5. Should any vacancy occur in the committee, the  
2 vacancy shall be filled by appointment from the representative  
3 body to which such member of the committee belonged, by the  
4 speaker of the house or president of the senate, as the case may  
5 be. Members of the committee shall be reimbursed for the actual  
6 and necessary expenses incurred by them in the discharge of their  
7 duties. Members of the committee shall receive as compensation  
8 such amounts as the Fifty-seventh General Assembly may allow. The  
9 committee shall have power to fix the compensation for its  
10 secretary and other assistants and shall be provided a suitable  
11 office for the conduct of its investigations by the state  
12 executive council.

1     Sec. 6. The committee shall be appointed as promptly as  
2 possible after the enactment of this measure and shall organize  
3 as soon thereafter as possible. It shall make its final report,  
4 including drafts of proposed bills, to the governor on or before  
5 the first day of November, 1946. Thereupon the governor shall  
6 cause to be printed sufficient copies of said report, including  
7 drafts of proposed bills, and cause copies of the same to be mailed  
8 to members of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly immediately  
9 following their election. The expenses thereof shall be paid  
10 from funds herein appropriated. The committee shall be  
11 discharged from its duties when it has submitted its final report  
12 to the governor and the General Assembly.

1     Sec. 7. There is hereby appropriated from any funds of the

2 state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of ten thousand  
 3 dollars (\$10,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to  
 4 carry out the proposals of this Act and for compensation and  
 5 expenses of such committee and its members as herein provided, to  
 6 be paid out of the state treasury on vouchers to be approved by  
 7 the chairman or secretary of the committee and audited according  
 8 to law.

9 Any unexpended balance of the funds herein appropriated  
 10 shall, upon the completion of the work of the committee, revert to  
 11 the general fund of the state.

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

EXPLANATION OF H. J. R. 19

This House joint resolution would provide for a special study committee to inquire into the regulation of electric, gas, water, steam, telephone and telegraph public utilities in Iowa. Telephone and telegraph utilities are not now regulated intrastate. Electric and gas utilities are now limitedly regulated by the Iowa State Commerce Commission and local city government. The latter are rarely equipped with the experience, information or funds to adequately and fairly investigate and deal with both consumer and public utility needs on rate adjustments particularly, and other related matters.

The trend is definitely toward state regulation of public utilities with forty-six states now having regulatory commissions. Only two (Iowa and Texas) are absent from this group. Public sentiment in Iowa is demanding establishment of a public utilities regulatory agency.

The duties of this committee would include draftmanship of a bill to respond to this sentiment. An appropriation of \$10,000 is provided for.

