

LEGAL SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE

Report to the Legislative Council  
and the Members of the  
Second Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
State of Iowa  
1976

F I N A L   R E P O R T

LEGAL SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE

November, 1975

The Legal Services Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council at its June 16, 1975 meeting. The Legislative Council directed the Committee to study the proposals contained in House Concurrent Resolution 75 and House Concurrent Resolution 44, introduced in the First Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly and relating to legal services for indigent and low-income persons and to costs arising from adoption and use of the unified trial court system, and to additionally study the subject matter of possible establishment of a system of regional prosecutors and defenders.

The Legislative Council named the following members of the General Assembly to serve as members of the Committee:

Senator Earl M. Willits  
Senator C. Joseph Coleman  
Senator James W. Griffin, Sr.  
Senator E. Kevin Kelly  
Senator Charles P. Miller  
Representative Norman G. Jesse  
Representative Robert T. Anderson  
Representative James D. Jordan  
Representative Lester D. Menke  
Representative David M. Readinger

Staff members assigned to the Committee were Mr. Mark S. Soldat, Mr. Larry W. Burch, and Miss Carol Ann Nix, all of the Legislative Service Bureau.

At its first meeting on October 16, 1975, Senator Willits and Representative Jesse were elected Co-Chairpersons of the Committee.

The October 16, 1975 Committee meeting was primarily devoted to the receiving of testimony from interested persons. In the area of study concerning possible revision of the state's prosecutorial system, the Committee heard from: Mr. Walter Saur, Fayette County Attorney; and, Mr. David Dutton, Black Hawk County Attorney and President, County Attorneys' Association.

In the area of study concerning the legal needs of low-income and indigent persons in Iowa, the Committee heard from: Mr. Roger Owens, Defender Advocates Office of Polk County; and, Mr. Robert Oberbillig, Director, Legal Aid Society of Polk County.

In the area of study concerning problems in the cost of operating the unified trial court system the Committee heard from:

Mr. Don Cleveland, Iowa State Association of Counties; Mr. Robert Harpster, League of Iowa Municipalities; and, The Honorable Robert F. Bina, State Representative.

The Committee also heard from The Honorable Leo Oxburger, Judge, District Court, Polk County in regard to all of the above three areas and from Mr. Rick George, Research Analyst, Iowa Crime Commission, concerning the Commission's task force on standards and goals of criminal justice as related to Iowa legal services.

The Committee held its second and final meeting on November 14, 1975. After lengthy discussion as to what the Committee might best accomplish at this late date, the Committee resolved not to continue itself in active status. However, it did unanimously vote to recommend to and, by this report, request permission of the Legislative Council to continue as a study committee to be reconvened immediately upon adjournment of the next session of the General Assembly.