



MINUTES

Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

June 13, 2007

First Meeting of the 2007-2008 Biennium

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Michael E. Gronstal,
Chairperson
Senator David Johnson
Senator John P. Kibbie
Senator Mary A. Lundby
Senator Becky Schmitz

Representative Mary Mascher,
Vice Chairperson
Representative Sandra H. Greiner
Representative Kevin McCarthy
Representative Christopher C. Rants

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. Procedural Business.
- II. Guidelines for Interim Studies Committees.
- III. Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies.
- IV. Report of the Studies Committee.
- V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency.
- VI. Attachments.



Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business.

Convening. Temporary Chairperson Gronstal called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in Room 22 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Representative McCarthy moved that Senator Gronstal and Representative Mascher, the temporary chairperson and temporary vice chairperson, be elected chairperson and vice chairperson. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes. Senator Kibbie moved that the minutes from the June 16, 2006, meeting of the Studies Committee be approved. There being no additions or corrections, the motion was adopted by voice vote.

Consideration of Study Proposals. Committee actions are summarized in these minutes.

Adjournment. The Studies Committee adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

II. Guidelines for Interim Study Committees.

Senator Kibbie moved approval of the guidelines for interim study committees for 2007 and 2008, which were included in the Committee packet. The guidelines were approved by voice vote. Representative Greiner asked for clarification regarding the change in the procedure for the approval of expenses for speakers and consulting work. Chairperson Gronstal noted that because the Legislative Council meets more infrequently than in past years and the legislative leadership has often in recent years approved study committee expenses, the change approved in the guidelines formally recognizes the current practice of the Legislative Council. A copy of the guidelines is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

III. Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies.

Chairperson Gronstal offered a proposed list of interim studies for the 2007 Interim. Representative Rants proposed adding to the membership of the Legislative Property Tax Study Committee a representative from the Professional Developers of Iowa. Senator Kibbie suggested that the language regarding appointment of a ninth member to the Committee be broad enough to permit all interested groups to submit names for consideration. Representative Rants moved that the Legislative Council designate as a ninth nonvoting member of the Committee someone engaged in economic development activities in the state. The motion was approved by voice vote.

The Committee discussed the addition, as provided in the proposed list of interim studies, of a pharmacist to the Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families, as well as the approval process contained in the guidelines for the expenditure of state funds by the Commission and by the Home-based Child Care Study Committee; the reasons for equal legislative majority and minority party membership on the TIME-21 Transportation Funding Study Committee; and the absence of a study committee on campaign finance reform on the proposed list. Upon a motion by Senator Kibbie, the Studies Committee adopted on a voice vote the proposed list of interim studies offered by Chairperson Gronstal, as amended by the modification proposed by Representative Rants.



IV. Report of the Studies Committee.

The study proposals recommended by the Studies Committee were compiled into one report to be presented to the Legislative Council for approval. A copy of the recommended 2007 Legislative Interim Studies is attached to these minutes as Attachment B.

V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency.

- A.** Studies Compilation: 2007 Legislative Interim Study Information, prepared by the Legislative Services Agency.
- B.** Proposal for 2007 Legislative Interim Studies, distributed by Chairperson Gronstal.
- C.** Minutes of the June 16, 2006, meeting of the Studies Committee.

VI. Attachments.

- A.** Proposed Guidelines for Interim Study Committees, 2007-2008 Interims, as recommended by the Studies Committee.
- B.** Proposal for 2007 Legislative Interim Studies, as recommended by the Studies Committee.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

~~2005-2006~~ 2007-2008 INTERIMS

ADOPTION OF RULES

Interim study committees must have a majority of the members representing each house voting affirmatively in order to adopt rules.

COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

Persons serving as public members of study committees are eligible to receive actual expenses only, if they are not eligible for expense reimbursement by an organization that they represent. In order for a public member representing an organization to be eligible to receive actual expenses, the organization must submit a letter to the Legislative Council indicating that the public member is not eligible for the reimbursement from the organization. Payment of the expenses is subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Legislative Council.

STAFF WORK FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

After consultation with, as appropriate, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) Director, a study committee chair may authorize research or legislative drafting work by the LSA for public members of study committees.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES

Public members of study committees may be nominated by designated organizations, subject to Legislative Council approval or subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Legislative Council in consultation with the Minority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

GENDER BALANCE

Appointment of public members to study committees shall be gender balanced.

APPROVAL OF ACTIONS

A majority vote of a study committee's voting members present is necessary to carry any action; however, recommendations to the Legislative Council or General Assembly must be adopted with the affirmative votes of a majority of the committee's members of each house.

VOTING BY PUBLIC MEMBERS

Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly or the Legislative Council, public members of study committees are nonvoting.

APPROVAL OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE DES MOINES

Any meeting or public hearing by a study committee held outside of Des Moines requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee or legislative leadership.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

When authorization is given for a study committee to hold a public hearing, the committee may hold one hearing as a body or individual members may each hold a public hearing or groups of two or more members may hold public hearings. However, for each authorized public hearing, no members of the study committee may receive compensation for attendance at more than one session.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR SPEAKERS AND CONSULTING WORK

Any expenditure by a study committee for a speaker or presentation or for any other purpose either requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council, or legislative leadership, or requires inclusion of the expenditure in a budget proposed by the study committee and approved by the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council, or legislative leadership. Contractual consulting work for a study committee requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council. Expenditures shall only be made in accordance with legislative expenditure policies and procedures.

SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

For the ~~2005~~ 2007 interim, the deadline for completion of interim study committee meetings is November ~~25, 2005~~ 26, 2007, and for the ~~2006~~ 2008 interim the deadline is December 15, ~~2006~~ 2008. An interim study committee must meet the deadline or receive an exemption or a revised deadline date from the Legislative Council.

Proposal for 2007 Legislative Interim Studies

A. Studies Mandated by Law and Permanent Committee

1. Legislative Property Tax Study Committee (2007 Iowa Acts, S.F. 601, § 127)

Charge: The Legislative Property Tax Study Committee is established for the 2007 and 2008 Legislative Interims to perform a comprehensive review of the property tax system.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House/9 nonvoting members appointed by leaders, including one who is engaged in economic development activities in the state/3 nonvoting executive branch agency members appointed by the Governor

Meeting Days: 3

2. Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families (2007 Iowa Acts, H.F. 909, §§ 99,127, & 128)

Charge: The Commission is created by legislation to review, analyze, and make recommendations by December 2007 on a broad spectrum of issues relating to the affordability of health care for Iowans. The legislation creates a Health Care Data Research Advisory Council to assist the Commission with research, analysis, and other functions. The legislation appropriates \$500,000 for FY08 to the Legislative Services Agency to support the work of the Commission and Council. To accomplish its charge, the Commission is authorized to procure consultation and other support directly through the Advisory Council or through exclusive contracts with other entities able to perform in the short time frame provided for the study, subject to legislative expenditure guidelines. The Commission is authorized to expend moneys from the appropriation made in Code section 2.12 to pay the June expenses of Commission members and staff to attend the Commission's first meeting and a health care conference in Des Moines sponsored by the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, subject to all expenditure guidelines otherwise applicable to the Commission. Such expenditures may be offset by a reduction in the \$500,000 appropriation for FY08.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House/9 public members, as designated in legislation plus a representative of the Iowa Pharmacy Association, appointed by leaders/5 consumers appointed by Governor/ 3 agency directors or designees. Only agency directors or designees are nonvoting members, with final recommendations subject to approval by legislator members per interim committee study guidelines. The appointing authority for legislator members of each caucus may designate a legislator from the same caucus to act as an alternate to attend official meetings of the commission for an absent legislator member.

Meeting Days: 7 plus 3 public hearings

3. TIME-21 Transportation Funding Study Committee (2007 Iowa Acts, H.F. 932 § 8)

Charge: Address the revenue needs of the Transportation Investment Moves the Economy in the Twenty-first Century (TIME-21) Fund created in 2007 Iowa Acts, H.F. 932, for funding of roads and highways.

Members: 4 Senate/4 House

Meeting Days: 2

4. Public Retirement Systems Committee (Iowa Code § 97D.4)

Charge: Review and evaluate all public retirement systems in place in Iowa, including the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS), the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (411), the Department of Public Safety Peace Officers' Retirement System (PORS), the Judicial Retirement System, and TIAA-CREF.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 3

B. Other Interim Studies

1. Criminal Code Reorganization Study Committee

Charge: Meet during the 2007 and 2008 Legislative Interims to consider proposals for Criminal Code revisions, reorganization, and updates.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House/8 Voting Public Members appointed by leaders to represent each of the following: Professor from University of Iowa College of Law, Professor from Drake University Law School, district court judge, Iowa Attorney General, State Public Defender, Iowa County Attorneys Association, Iowa Board of Parole, and Department of Corrections.

Meeting Days: 3

2. Sustainable Funding For Natural Resources

Charge: Study how best to provide for sustainable funding for natural resource needs. Cooperate with the members of the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee established in 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 43, and other interested persons in performing the study.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: Up to 8

3. Livestock Odor Study Committee

Charge: Consider issues relating to odors associated with livestock. Study and make recommendations for additional state funding for research into cost effective management practices, facilities, equipment, and practices to mitigate odor from livestock production facilities, for an Iowa State University Veterinary Laboratory review of airborne disease research, and for research for utilizing manure and other livestock waste products as sources of nutrient recovery and renewable energy.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

4. State Prison System Study and Planning Study Committee

Charge: Consider the recommendations and proposals generated by the state prison system study and planning addressed by the Department and Board of Corrections pursuant to 2006 Iowa Acts, H.F. 2782, § 1.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

5. Early Care Best Practices Study Committee

Charge: Review best practices for Iowa's early care system of programs, services, support, or other assistance made available to a parent or other person who is involved with addressing the health and education needs of a child from birth through age five.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

6. Freedom of Information, Open Meetings, and Public Records Study Committee

Charge: Review and recommend changes to Iowa's open meetings and public records laws in Code chapters 21 and 22 and the State Archives and Records Act in Code chapter 305.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 3

7. Energy Efficiency Study Committee

Charge: Examine energy efficiency programs under the purview of the Iowa Utilities Board and consider other proposals for improving energy efficiency in the state.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

8. Home-based Child Care Study Committee

Charge: Consider options for increasing the number of home-based child care providers who are subject to registration. Not more than \$100,000 is authorized for the costs of research, pilot projects, and other testing of options.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

9. Skilled Worker Shortage Study Committee

Charge: Consider educational system improvements and other options to address shortages of skilled workers.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

10. Animal Feeding of Distillers Dried Grains Study Committee

Charge: Consider issues related to standards for the distillers dried grains that can be used in formulating rations for livestock.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 1