



MINUTES

Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

June 12, 2008

Second Meeting of the 2007-2008 Biennium

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Michael E. Gronstal,
Chairperson
Senator David Johnson
Senator John P. Kibbie
Senator Becky Schmitz (by telephone)

Representative Mary Mascher,
Vice Chairperson
Representative Polly Bukta
Representative Sandra H. Greiner (by
telephone)
Representative Kevin M. McCarthy
Representative Christopher C. Rants

MEETING IN BRIEF

.....

Organizational staffing provided
by: John Pollak, Committee
Services Administrator
(515) 281-3818
john.pollak@legis.state.ia.us

Minutes prepared by: Ann
Ver Heul, Legal Counsel
(515) 281-3837
ann.ver.heul@legis.state.ia.us

- I. Procedural Business
- II. Guidelines for Interim Study 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. Chairperson Gronstal called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008, in Room 103 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approval of Minutes. Representative McCarthy moved that the minutes from the June 13, 2007, 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 11:20 a.m.

II. Guidelines for Interim Study Committees

Chairperson Gronstal stated that copies of the guidelines for interim study committees for 2007 and 2008 were included in the Committee packet for the information of the Committee, with no changes from last year. A copy of the guidelines is attached as Attachment A and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

III. Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies

Chairperson Gronstal offered a proposed list of interim studies for the 2008 Interim. Representative Greiner made a motion requesting that the Committee add one more study to the list concerning the condition of the livestock industry in Iowa particularly in light of flooding and dramatic increases in grain prices. After discussion of the proposed motion by the Committee, Representative Greiner withdrew the motion at the request of Chairperson Gronstal, so that her request could be considered at the meeting of the full Legislative Council later that day.

Senator Johnson asked whether the proposed Energy Efficiency Study Committee will take into account the impact of the rising demand for energy in this state in the next 30 to 40 years. Chairperson Gronstal responded that the charge for the proposed Study Committee requires that the Committee take testimony from various parties, including utilities, to determine whether current energy efficiency plans and programs are sufficient or need revision.

Upon a motion by Senator Kibbie, the Studies Committee adopted, on a voice vote, the proposed list of interim studies offered by Chairperson Gronstal.

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 2008 Legislative Interim Studies is attached to these minutes as Attachment B.



V. Materials Filed with the Legislative Services Agency

- A.** Studies Compilation: 2008 Legislative Interim Study Information, prepared by the Legislative Services Agency.
- B.** Proposal for 2008 Legislative Interim Studies, distributed by Chairperson Gronstal.
- C.** Minutes of the June 13, 2007, meeting of the Studies Committee.

VI. Attachments

- A.** Guidelines for Interim Study Committees, 2007-2008 Interims, as approved by the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council on June 13, 2007.
- B.** Proposal for 2008 Legislative Interim Studies, as recommended by the Studies Committee.

3692LC

GUIDELINES FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES 2007-2008 INTERIMS

As Approved by the Legislative Council on June 13, 2007

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

Proposal for 2008 Legislative Interim Studies

A. Carryover Studies from 2007 Interim

1. Criminal Code Reorganization Study Committee

Charge: Meet during the 2007 and 2008 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). The committee and its subcommittees are authorized to hold meetings outside the Des Moines area.

Meeting Days: 2 days for 2008

2. Legislative Property Tax Study Committee (2007 Iowa Acts, SF 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. The study committee may contract for analysis or other services. The cost for such contracting shall not exceed \$150,000.

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: 2 days for 2008

B. Other Interim Studies

1. Energy Efficiency Plans and Programs Study Committee

Charge: Examine the existence and effectiveness of energy efficiency plans and programs implemented by gas and electric public utilities, with an emphasis on results achieved by current plans and programs from the demand, or customer, perspective, and make recommendations for additional requirements applicable to energy efficiency plans and programs that would improve such results. In conducting the study and developing recommendations, the study committee shall consider testimony from the Iowa Utilities Board, rate and nonrate-regulated gas and electric utilities, the Consumer Advocate, state agencies involved with energy efficiency program administration, environmental groups and associations, and consumers.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

2. Identity Theft Prevention Study Committee

Charge: Assess and review the extent to which personal, identifying information of a resident of this state is in the possession of government or government-affiliated organizations, and which, if disclosed, could render the resident vulnerable to identity theft. Also assess the extent to which public officials, government organizations, and affiliated organizations make available, are in possession of, have access to, or are disclosing or selling such information for compensation. Based upon this assessment and review, the committee shall develop recommendations relating to these practices

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

3. Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Facility Analysis

Charge: Issue a request for proposals to contract for an independent entity to analyze and make recommendations for an optimal site and facilities for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The analysis shall address the considerations necessary for relocating the academy. The cost of the analysis shall not exceed \$150,000.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House members from the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on the Justice System

Meeting Days: 1

4. Medicaid Elderly Waiver Program Study Committee

Charge: Review the services, costs, and requirements under the Medicaid Home and Community-based Services Elderly Waiver Program. Consult with the Department of Human Services and persons interested in the program. Make recommendations for appropriate changes to the program.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

5. Medicaid Program Drug Product Selection Study Committee

Charge: Convene public and private stakeholders to review current law for drug product selection under the Medicaid Program.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

6. Mass Transit Study Committee

Charge: Study the ways in which mass transit might be employed to provide public transportation services among Iowa communities. Consider the ways mass transit availability affects various populations in rural and urban communities, particularly those who are unable to drive or cannot afford to own a motor vehicle; determine any impact mass transit among communities can have on population levels, quality of life, and economic development in urban job centers, small and satellite communities, and rural towns; identify the effect of mass transit on greenhouse gases and on overall air quality; determine the level of public need for mass transit, including any specific areas in immediate need; investigate the feasibility of expanding mass transit services and the types and combination of services that might comprise a state mass transit system; identify potential costs and funding mechanisms for developing and maintaining specific mass transit services; and assess the attitudes and habits of Iowans concerning personal transportation and ways to educate the public about the economic, social, and environmental advantages of mass transit. Consult with the interests listed in 2008 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2425, section 146, in conducting the study.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

7. Postsecondary Education Rigor Analysis

Charge: Issue a request for proposals to contract for an independent entity to analyze and compare the rigor of the first two years of study at community colleges and institutions of higher education governed by the State Board of Regents. Make the report of the analysis publicly available by July 1, 2009. (required by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2679, section 7)

Members: 3 Senate/3 House members who are involved with an education standing committee or joint appropriations subcommittee

Meeting Days: 1

C. Procedural Items

1. **Completion Deadline.** The previously approved deadline for completion of 2008 interim study committee meetings is December 15, 2008. An interim study committee must meet the deadline or receive an exemption or a revised deadline date from the Legislative Council. (Study Guidelines approved by the Legislative Council June 13, 2007)

2. **Membership Changes.** Any change in membership numbers and voting status of the members of a legislative interim study body approved by the Legislative Council requires the approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council or legislative leadership.