



MINUTES

State Government Reorganization Commission

December 10, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Staci Appel, Co-chairperson
Senator Jeff Danielson
Senator Randy Feenstra
Senator Shawn Hamerlinck
Senator Steve Warnstadt

Representative Mary Mascher, Co-chairperson
Representative Mary Gaskill
Representative Erik Helland
Representative Doug Struyk
Representative Todd Taylor

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. Procedural Business
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Commission Discussion
- IV. Consideration of Recommendations
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State Government Reorganization Commission

I. Procedural Business

Call to order. The second meeting of the State Government Reorganization Commission was called to order by Co-chairperson Mascher at 10:04 a.m., Thursday, December 10, 2009. The meeting was held in Room 103 of the State Capitol.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Overview. The Commission discussed a set of proposed recommendations on the reorganization of state government, adopted the recommendations as a whole, and agreed to forward the recommendations to the House of Representatives and Senate standing committees on state government for consideration.

II. Opening Remarks

Co-chairperson Mascher convened the meeting and provided a summary of the agenda, stating that the members would discuss the set of proposed recommendations provided to the Commission by the Co-chairpersons but would not discuss the recommendations recently provided by Public Works LLC to the Governor's office. Mascher indicated that the appropriate time to consider the Governor's recommendations would be during the drafting of legislation and emphasized that while the proposed recommendations represent a place to begin drafting legislation, the details of such legislation remain a work in progress.

Co-chairperson Appel thanked the members of the Commission and stated that the work of the Commission would make government more effective and efficient and would result in a stronger Iowa. Co-chairperson Appel also stated that input on the possible ways to improve government was solicited from many people and groups and indicated that many of the proposed recommendations were aided by that input. Co-chairperson Appel then moved to adopt as a whole the proposed recommendations provided to the Commission. Representative Taylor seconded the motion.

III. Commission Discussion

Co-chairperson Mascher opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Danielson thanked the Co-chairpersons for keeping the Commission on task and reiterated that the proposed recommendations were not the last step, but rather the first in the process of reorganization. Senator Danielson also expressed a desire not to spend a great deal of time in the meeting debating the minutiae of the proposed recommendations but to leave such work for the legislative process.

Representative Gaskill had reservations about some of the proposed recommendations, but on the whole was supportive of them and wants to continue to work on the legislation as it moves forward.

Representative Helland thanked the Commission for its spirit of bipartisanship and expressed a desire to see that spirit continue. Representative Helland was supportive of the proposed recommendations but would also support more aggressive changes to the organization of state government.



Representative Taylor pointed out the overlap of the Commission's proposed recommendations with areas of responsibility addressed by some of the joint budget subcommittees, particularly the justice appropriations subcommittee. Representative Taylor anticipates exploring ways to pursue reorganization through the budget process as well as the Commission's proposed recommendations. Representative Taylor then directed a question to the Commission about the state lottery's need for separate computer systems.

Co-chairperson Appel responded that the state lottery has a legitimate need for a waiver from some of the consolidation requirements in the proposed recommendations.

IV. Consideration of Recommendations

Discussion having concluded, the roll was called on the motion to approve the proposed recommendations. The motion was approved unanimously and the Commission agreed to forward the recommendations to the chairpersons of the House of Representatives and Senate standing committees on state government for consideration.

V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency

The following materials listed were distributed at or in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the <Additional Information> link on the Committee's Internet webpage:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=487>.

1. Budget Subcommittee Input.
2. Proposed Recommendations List.
3. Public Suggestions — General Assembly Website.