

MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MAY 19, 1992

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The May 19, 1992, meeting of the Administration Committee was held in Room 24 of the Statehouse and was called to order by Chairperson Representative Mike Peterson at 10:35 a.m. Members present in addition to Chairperson Peterson were:

Senator Donald Doyle
Senator Jean Lloyd-Jones
Representative William Harbor
Representative Wayne McKinney

The Committee approved the minutes from the November 19, 1991, meeting. A packet of materials relating to the computerization of the Administrative Code and Iowa Code projects was distributed to the Committee and is on file with the Legislative Service Bureau.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Richard Johnson, Deputy Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, discussed activities regarding the computerization of the Administrative Code and the progress of the consultants who are preparing a report and recommendations to be completed by July 20, 1992, and forwarded to the Legislative Council. In response to several questions by members of the Committee, Mr. Johnson stated that in the long term, the costs of publishing the Administrative Code will decrease, but that obtaining the reductions will require the up-front purchase of some computer equipment.

Mr. Johnson continued by explaining that the Legislative Service Bureau is requesting approval from the Committee and the Legislative Council to renumber several chapters of the Iowa Code, thus expanding the numbers of titles and subtitles and making the Iowa Code and the index more organized. Several members of the Committee expressed concern over the impact that changing section numbers will have. Mr. Johnson responded that the Iowa Code Editor plans to inform the reader as much as possible by placing notes annotating the actions taken

in the Code and by creating a table indicating the changes. Mr. Johnson reassured the Committee that most of the Volume III chapters are left intact under the proposed plan and that the Iowa Code Editor and the Legislative Service Bureau carefully considered the proper procedures to keep the reader accurately informed. Mr. Johnson suggested that legislation with intent language could be drafted to confirm effective date changes and to answer any other unresolved questions.

Mr. Carl Nielsen, Executive Director of the Iowa State Bar Association who was recognized by the Committee for comment, stated that in general any improvements to the Code and especially to the index would be supported by the Iowa State Bar Association. In response to questions by Representative Harbor and Senator Doyle, Mr. Johnson explained that the official publication date for the Code is the date that the manuscript is sent to the printer. He explained further that some states require legislative approval of the recodification of titles, but that Iowa does not. Mr. Johnson proposed that in order to clarify the changes for the reader, a table could be included in the Code which would address title and subtitle changes.

Chairperson Peterson moved that the Administration Committee recommend that the Legislative Council direct the Code Editor to implement the plan submitted to the Committee for dividing the Code contents into four volumes, revising titles of the Code, renumbering certain chapters, moving some chapters, and revising the index. The motion was seconded and approved.

A general discussion ensued regarding the potential for publishing the Code in a softbound edition and the numbers of free copies which are being distributed. Mr. Mark Johnson, Legislative Service Bureau, was instructed to study the issues and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Mark Johnson discussed two requests made to the Legislative Service Bureau concerning the purchase of the electronic Code database. He explained that the Society of Land Surveyors of Iowa has requested that certain chapters of the Code be made available for publication by them. He continued that this is not expected to have a direct impact on the sale of the Code and that the scope of the contract would involve approximately 10 percent of the Code database. The other request, he explained, is from the Iowa State Bar Association. He stated that the Bar Association wants to purchase the Code database, transfer it to disk, and market it to their membership.

Mr. Nielsen explained that purchasing the Code database would allow the legal community to access the Code in January rather than waiting until the hardbound volumes were available in April. In addition, he stated that it would eliminate the purchase of some hardbound volumes. He added that the initial estimates are that 300 law offices would subscribe.

Chairperson Peterson moved that the Committee request the Legislative Council to direct the Legislative Service Bureau to further investigate the potential for the sale of the 1993 Code database to the Iowa State Bar Association, update the Committee concerning the investigation, and submit any proposed agreement to the Committee for review and possible recommendation to the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded and approved.

Chairperson Peterson next moved that the Committee request the Legislative Council to direct the Legislative Service Bureau to negotiate an agreement with the Society of Land Surveyors of Iowa for the sale of a portion of the electronic Code database, and submit the agreement to the Administration Committee for final review and and recommendation to the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded and approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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