

MINUTES

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

March 7, 1991

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The meeting of the Redistricting Committee was called to order by Representative Wayne McKinney, Chairperson, on March 7, 1991, at 2:40 p.m. in Room 24 of the Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to the Chairperson were:

Senator Bill Hutchins
Senator Jack Rife
Senator Joe Welsh
Representative Kay Chapman
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Other persons attending the meeting were:

Mr. Richard Johnson, Deputy Director, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Bob Haus, Director, Senate Republican Caucus Staff
Mr. Dennis Harbaugh, Director, Senate Democratic Research Staff
Ms. Paulee Lipsman, Director, House Democratic Research Staff
Mr. Greg Nichols, Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader
Mr. Joe O'Hern, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Liz Isaacson, Assistant Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Maryjo Welch, House Republican Caucus Staff
Mr. Greg Watson, House Republican Caucus Staff
Mr. Gary Kaufman, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Andrew Karl, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Legislative Service Bureau

Other interested persons were also in attendance.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Chairperson McKinney discussed the question of additional public access to the redistricting data bases in an electronic format. He suggested possible negotiations with Election Data Services, Inc. concerning contract changes that would allow for additional public access to the electronic data base.

Representative Chapman moved to authorize Chairperson McKinney, Senator Hutchins, and Representative Van Maanen to negotiate with Election Data Services, Inc. to allow for additional public access of the electronic data base used for redistricting purposes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson McKinney also noted the request made by Senator Lind to the Legislative Council at its February meeting concerning release of the minority population composition of any redistricting plan submitted to the General Assembly by the Legislative Service Bureau. Representative Chapman opined that Chapter 42 of the Code specifies that the Legislative Service Bureau is not allowed to consider minority population data while redistricting plans are being created. Chairperson McKinney stated that the intention is to attach a report to the redistricting plan after it is created which specifies the minority population makeup of all districts. Representative Chapman suggested that perhaps the Legislative Service Bureau could distribute such a report but that the Bureau employees drawing the redistricting plans should not prepare the report in order to comply with the requirements of Chapter 42 of the Code.

Senator Welsh moved to recommend that the Legislative Council should require the Legislative Service Bureau to provide to the public, upon request, a report on the demographic composition of each district created in a redistricting plan submitted to the General Assembly for consideration, with the demographic data based upon the Census Bureau's 1990 census information. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson McKinney also made reference to Senator Lind's suggestion to the Legislative Council concerning a process by which members of minority population groups could have some type of input into the redistricting process.

Representative Chapman moved to request the State Government Committees of the House and Senate to hold a joint public hearing on any suggested changes in Chapter 42 of the Code regarding the consideration of minority populations in the redistricting process. Senator Welsh moved to amend Representative Chapman's motion to include the possibility of holding more than one joint public hearing, and the motion to amend the motion carried by voice vote.

Representative Chapman's motion, as amended, to request the State Government Committees of the House and Senate to hold one or more joint public hearings on any suggested changes in Chapter 42 of the Code regarding the consideration of minority populations in the redistricting process carried by voice vote.

Senator Hutchins noted that Senator Lind had indicated a concern to the Legislative Council about the separation of areas with a majority of a minority

population into two or more legislative districts. Senator Hutchins continued that the Legislature's commitment is to a redistricting plan fair to all minority population groups.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GARY D. RUDICIL
Research Analyst

2617LC
GR/dg