

MINUTES
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 19, 1991

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Administration Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 9:25 a.m. on November 19, 1991, by Chairperson Representative Mike Peterson in Room 24 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines, Iowa. Those members of the Committee present in addition to Chairperson Peterson were Senator Don Doyle and Representative Bill Harbor. Chairperson Peterson received the minutes from the June 13, 1991, meeting.

MS. JOANN BROWN, IOWA CODE EDITOR, LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

Ms. JoAnn Brown introduced Mr. Peter Dubec who is an Assistant Code Editor in the Iowa Code Division. She explained that her purpose was to report to the Committee the results of a survey which the Committee requested that the Iowa Code Division perform to identify the state agencies that receive free copies of the Iowa Code and other Legislative Service Bureau publications, to determine the number that each agency receives, the number that it needs, whether softbound volumes or computer access could be substituted for hardbound volumes, and other related questions. She stated that the survey, which was conducted by Mr. Dubec, sought information on distribution of the Iowa Code, the Code Supplement, the Session Laws, the Iowa Administrative Code and Bulletin, the Court Rules, and the State Roster. She stated that statutory authority found in section 18.97 authorizes the Legislative Service Bureau, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Attorney General's Office, and the district and state court administrators to receive as many free copies of the various publications as the respective offices need. She said that results of the survey indicated that 37 percent of the agencies feel that softbound copies of the Iowa Code would serve their needs.

Ms. Brown commented that since 1985 the number of pages in the Iowa Code have increased from approximately 5,000 to approximately 6,000 in number and that costs of publishing have also increased. She stated that the 1993 version of the Code will be four volumes plus the index. In response to a series of questions by Senator Doyle, Ms. Brown confirmed that a loose-leaf version of the Code is not being pursued as an option, that softbound volumes could be delivered quicker because they would not be delayed by shipping to Chicago for binding, and that the

costs for binding are not a significant amount. She added that the Division regularly prints over 8,000 copies of the Iowa Code and fewer of the other publications. She explained that the Superintendent of Printing, Department of General Services, contracts with others for the typesetting and the printing of the publications.

Representative Harbor questioned whether the percentage of unused books is consistent from year to year and suggested that if a certain percentage is not being used, we could save money by reducing the numbers which are printed. Ms. Brown replied that she is unsure how many are actually not being used, but that the Superintendent of Printing should have those figures and said that it is possible the order could be reduced by a small amount. Senator Doyle referred to Appendix B of the survey which lists all of the agencies receiving free publications and commented that the number ordered seems unnecessarily high and that perhaps agencies are overordering.

Senator Doyle recommended that the Committee request that the Legislative Council address this issue by requesting the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to ask that the appropriate standing committees study the issue. He stated further that the standing committees should evaluate possible changes in distribution which might include giving departments a preset number of Codes and allowing the departments to order additional Codes at a reduced cost if the departments obtain appropriations for the additional expenditures. Representative Harbor seconded the motion and the Committee approved the request without a quorum present.

Ms. Brown commented that the survey results were difficult to obtain because there appears to be an inadequate recordkeeping system in the Division of Printing, which is responsible for distribution. Senator Doyle recommended that the Committee request the Legislative Council to contact the Superintendent of Printing and request that a better recordkeeping system be established in order to track the number of Codes and other legal publications which are ordered and received and to account for the free distribution or sale of the publications. He continued that the Superintendent of Printing should be requested to submit a report to the Legislative Council by March 15, 1992, and indicate the progress toward that goal. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee without a quorum.

Additionally Senator Doyle recommended that the Committee request the Legislative Council to ask the Supreme Court to direct the State Court Administrator to establish a recordkeeping procedure which would track the number of Codes and other publications which are ordered and received within the court system and to submit a report which sets out that information to the Legislative Council by March 15, 1992. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee without a quorum.

A general discussion ensued regarding notification of the availability of Iowa Codes and other publications for sale. Ms. Brown was directed by the Committee to contact the Iowa State Bar Association on an informal basis, asking it to notify the legal community when the publications are available for sale. Mr. Dubec commented on the fact that section 18.92 allows for unlimited distribution of the publications as the Superintendent of Printing determines. Senator Doyle directed Ms. Brown and Mr. Dubec to prepare a memorandum for the Committee summarizing the comments that they made at the meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Mark Johnson from the Legislative Service Bureau explained to the Committee that the Legislative Service Bureau requires authorization from the Committee to sell a computer printout of the Code to West Publishing at a price of \$600. Representative Harbor questioned how Mr. Johnson had arrived at the \$600 figure and Mr. Johnson replied that the price was based upon the previous year's price. Senator Doyle questioned the cost of the printout and Mr. Richard Johnson from the Legislative Service Bureau responded that the only cost involved is two to three hours of computer time. He added that the economic question to West Publishing is whether it is worth it to pay for the printout or whether they rekey the information into their computer system.

Senator Doyle questioned how soon West Publishing wants the printout and Mr. Mark Johnson replied that they had indicated as soon as possible. In addition, Mr. Mark Johnson indicated that the Surveyor's Association has contacted the Legislative Service Bureau regarding the possibility of obtaining the computerized Code database. Senator Doyle recommended that the Committee request the Legislative Council authorize the Legislative Service Bureau to negotiate with West Publishing and other interested entities for the sale of printouts or other format of the 1991 Code changes or portions of the Code database. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee without a quorum.

Following an explanation by Mr. Mark Johnson regarding negotiations with Truart Color Graphic, Senator Doyle recommended that the Committee request the Legislative Council approve the sale of a portion of the electronic Code database pursuant to an agreement to be negotiated by the Legislative Service Bureau with Truart Color Graphic, in consultation with, and upon the approval of, legislative leadership. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee without a quorum.

Senator Doyle raised the question of the television inlets in the House Chamber and Iowa Public Broadcasting Network's transmission concerns. He requested that the Legislative Service Bureau provide the Committee with more information on the situation at the next Committee meeting. Senator Doyle next

raised the question of emergency generators and recommended that the Committee request that the Legislative Council again request the Appropriations Committees of both chambers to discuss the issue of standby emergency generators and the wiring and lighting plans which were previously submitted to the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee without a quorum.

Finally, Senator Doyle raised the issue of changes on the wiring for the Senate and House speaker systems. He explained that new wiring had been authorized and requested the Legislative Service Bureau to contact the appropriate parties to determine whether the system is working as well as it is supposed to work.

Representative Harbor moved to arise at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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