

M I N U T E S  
STUDIES COMMITTEE  
of the  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 12, 1979

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 1979 in Senate Committee Room 22 of the State House in Des Moines. Committee members present for the meeting were:

Senator Calvin O. Hultman, Co-chairperson  
Representative Roger Halvorson, Co-chairperson  
Speaker of the House Floyd H. Millen  
Senator C. Joseph Coleman  
Senator Lowell Junkins  
Senator Richard Ramsey  
Senator Ray Taylor  
Representative Donald Avenson  
Representative John Clark

Other persons attending the meeting included Director Serge Garrison, Bernie Koebernick, Phil Burks and Debbie Dahab of the Legislative Service Bureau and numerous other legislative staffers and interested persons.

Co-chairperson Hultman noted that Committee members had been provided considerable information concerning interim studies which have been mandated or requested. He pointed out that actions of the 1979 Session of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly have mandated that four specific interim studies be conducted this year. These are the county home rule study (SJR 9), property tax study (HF 757), income tax study (SF 494), and the state liquor warehouse study (HF 764). He also noted that on April 17, 1979, the Legislative Council had approved the establishment of an interim legislative study of the Iowa court system, as proposed by SJR 13.

Senator Taylor moved that the Studies Committee formally recommend to the Legislative Council that the four mandated interim studies be approved. The motion was seconded by Representative Avenson, and adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

Co-chairperson Hultman then quickly reviewed the remaining study requests that have been presented either by resolutions filed in the Senate or House of Representatives, or by request submitted by chairpersons of standing committees.

There was some discussion by Representative Avenson and Senator Junkins with the Committee Co-chairpersons regarding budget guidelines that the majority leadership hopes to follow in carrying out legislative activities during the current interim and how these budget guidelines are likely to effect plans for interim

legislative studies. In response to questions by Representative Avenson, Co-chairperson Hultman said he would like to see a limitation of approximately 1,200 "legislator-days" observed with respect to study committee meetings during the 1979 interim.

Co-chairperson Halvorson remarked that he believes it is important to give primary consideration to subjects and priorities which need to be studied during the 1979 interim in preparation for the 1980 Session, rather than to a particular number of meeting days for the interim. Co-chairperson Hultman agreed, and listed the studies which he believes it is most important to conduct during the 1979 interim.

Mr. Garrison noted that in the past, the Legislative Council's Studies Committee has often begun the work of determining what studies will be conducted during a particular interim by assigning relative priorities to each requested study. Then, if it appears that there are time and staff resources available to carry out any studies in addition to those initially assigned the highest priority, adjustments can be made. It was agreed to follow this general procedure during the current meeting.

In the course of the discussion which followed, three legislators who are not Committee members made special presentations in support of particular requests. They were Senator Forrest Schwengels, in regard to the need for greater soil conservation efforts; Representative Charles Bruner, who summarized the report and recommendations of the Democrat Legislative Task Force on Energy; and Representative Delwyn Stromer, who commented briefly on need for a study of restructuring, reorganization and funding of education programs. Copies of materials submitted to the Committee by Senator Schwengels and Representative Bruner are on file with the Legislative Service Bureau.

At the conclusion of the review of studies mandated or requested by bills or resolutions, and those requested by standing committee chairpersons, a total of 16 joint Senate-House interim study proposals and one study to be conducted by the Senate only had been assigned number 1 (i.e., highest priority) ratings. At that point, Representative Avenson moved to add to this list a study of the funding of the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Senator Junkins, and after a brief discussion was adopted by a voice vote.

The Committee then reviewed the list of study requests to which highest priority had been assigned, and agreed upon the standing committee or committees from which each proposed subcommittee should be drawn. The number of members proposed to be appointed to each subcommittee was also agreed upon.

The Legislative Service Bureau staff was requested to prepare a list of the interim studies that the Committee had tentatively

agreed to recommend to the Legislative Council for approval, organized by title of the respective standing committees from which members will be appointed to the subcommittees to conduct the studies. The staff was also directed to indicate on this list the number of members proposed to be appointed to each of the interim subcommittees.

It was agreed that upon completion, the list to be prepared by the Service Bureau staff should be reviewed by the Committee Co-chairpersons. The list would then be reviewed by the full Studies Committee at a brief session prior to the meeting of the Legislative Council on the following day.

The Committee meeting was recessed at noon until 9:00 a.m. on the following day.

Wednesday, June 13, 1979

The Studies Committee was reconvened at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Committee Room 22, Co-chairperson Hultman presiding. Committee members were provided copies of both the list of interim studies tentatively chosen for recommendation to the Legislative Council which had been prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau, and a revised version of that list including additional information arising from the deliberations of the Committee Co-chairpersons on the preceding afternoon.

Co-chairperson Hultman noted the addition of a proposed study of legislative staffing, salary and job descriptions, to be carried out by a joint subcommittee composed of three members each from the Senate Rules and the Administration Committee and the House Administration Committee. On motion of Speaker Millen, seconded by Senator Ramsey, Committee members present voted unanimously to approve addition of this proposed study to the list to be recommended by the Council.

It was also noted that the proposed Land Use study had been transferred from the State Government to the Natural Resources Committee. No objection was expressed to this change.

It was further noted that the Co-chairpersons had initially recommended authorizing 4 meeting days for the subcommittee conducting the study of the state income tax structure pursuant to S.F. 494, and 5 meeting days for the subcommittee conducting the comprehensive study of the property tax structure pursuant to H.F. 757. Acting on suggestions of the Ways and Means Committee Chairpersons, it was agreed that the Studies Committee would instead recommend 7 meeting days for the Property Tax Subcommittee, and 2 for the Income Tax Subcommittee.

Representative Avenson expressed general concern about the number of authorized meeting days recommended for some of the subcommittees proposed to be established. He said he believes that a number of the contemplated studies will require more time to complete than the Studies Committee is proposing to allow. Co-chairperson Hultman replied that the emphasis should be placed not on the number of meeting days to be allowed, but on the achievement of a general goal. This goal was described as completion of work necessary to prepare for action during the 1980 Session on bills which it is generally recognized must or should be acted upon during that session. Co-chairperson Hultman added that any individual Subcommittee can certainly ask for additional time if its members feel that is necessary in order to reach this goal.

Representative Avenson moved that the proposed joint interim Subcommittee on Public Utility Rate Regulation and Policy, of the standing Committees on Commerce, be initially authorized 5 meeting days rather than 3. After some discussion, Representative Avenson withdrew the motion.

Co-chairperson Halvorson proposed that there be added to the list of recommended interim subcommittees a joint subcommittee composed of five members each from the Senate and House Committees on Cities, to conduct a study of the use of industrial development revenue bonds, as proposed by HCR 27, and that this subcommittee be initially authorized 3 meeting days. There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

Senator Coleman moved that each of the joint subcommittees listed under the heading "combined studies" be increased in size from 12 to 20 members, explaining that this would lessen the difficulty of selecting appropriate numbers of majority and minority members. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Representative Avenson moved to add to the list of recommended studies the study of possible establishment of local mediation arbitration-centers, proposed by HCR 25. After a brief discussion, Representative Avenson's motion was defeated by a voice vote.

On motion of Speaker Millen, the list of proposed interim study subcommittees as revised was unanimously adopted for recommendation to the Legislative Council.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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SERGE H. GARRISON  
Director