

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

May 20, 1974

The first meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council for the 1974 interim was called to order at 1:20 p.m. Monday, May 20, 1974 by the Chairman, Senator Willard R. Hansen, in the Speaker's Room of the State House. The members present were:

Senator Willard R. Hansen, Chairman  
Speaker of the House Andrew Varley  
Senator Karl Nolin  
Senator Roger J. Shaff  
Senator Earl M. Willits  
Representative Dale M. Cochran  
Representative Edgar H. Holden  
Representative James I. Middleswart  
Representative Delwyn D. Stromer

Also present were Director Serge Garrison, Phil Burks, Burnette Koebernick and Jeanne Miller of the Legislative Service Bureau, Assistant Chief Clerk of the House David Wray and House Legal Counsel Dan Dudley.

Chairman Hansen noted that the meeting had been called for the purpose of reviewing study requests for the 1974 interim which had been presented to the Legislative Council, and making a determination as to how many interim studies the Council could afford and could support in terms of staff and other resources.

Mr. Garrison said that several additional staff members are being hired by the Service Bureau in accordance with the appropriation made by the General Assembly for the second year of the current biennium, and that the staff situation with respect to 1974 interim work should therefor be rather favorable. In terms of money available, Mr. Garrison estimated that the Council could fund approximately twelve interim studies, and possibly as many as fourteen if the number of meetings are limited and not too many members are appointed to each of the study committees.

Senator Shaff expressed the hope that the Council could minimize both the number of major studies authorized and the number of actual study committee meetings during the 1974 interim. Mr. Garrison suggested that one possible approach to achieving this objective is to initiate staff research by the Service Bureau and other available personnel in a number of suggested areas, and complete a staff research memorandum on the basis of which the Council could decide, perhaps in September, if there is a need for appointment of a legislative study committee to evaluate the findings and proceed with further consideration of the subject matter and development of recommendations. Senator Shaff said that

another possible approach would be to appoint some study committees in the near future with the understanding that they would not hold their initial meetings until research in the areas in which they are to function has been completed.

Senator Nolin noted that the Council will face a somewhat different situation in making study committee appointments for the 1974 interim than was the case a year ago, since there will be an intervening election before convening of the next General Assembly and a number of legislators have decided not to seek reelection and some who are candidates may be defeated in the forthcoming primary election. Senator Nolin therefore urged that consideration be given to these matters in appointing members of Study Committees. Mr. Garrison noted that members who will not be returning to the General Assembly can nevertheless, in some cases, make significant contributions to interim committee work while they are still in office.

In response to a question from Senator Willits, Mr. Garrison stated that Professor Richard Dole of the University of Iowa College of Law will teach a course this summer and fall in legislative drafting, and would like to have the students enrolled in this course become involved in actual work with the General Assembly. These students will, therefore, be available for certain kinds of assignments in connection with some of the interim studies approved by the Council.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Studies Committee should proceed to establish relative priorities among the several requests for interim studies. It was agreed to use the following system of priority designation in assigning relative priorities to 1974 interim study requests:

1. Imperative
2. Important
3. Desirable
4. Not necessary

The Studies Committee then reviewed the document "Requests for Interim Committees" prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau. Each requested study--plus a few additional items added by agreement of the Studies Committee--was assigned one of the numbered priority designations, or was recommended for referral to standing committees of the Senate and House to be conducted as a joint interim subcommittee project, or was recommended for assignment to the Legislative Service Bureau or other available legislative staff personnel for study in lieu of or prior to a decision on appointment of a legislative study committee. In the latter case, it is anticipated that a report on staff research work will be submitted to the Legislative Council in September unless another date is noted.

Study requests were considered in the order they are listed in the Legislative Service Bureau document "Requests for Interim Committees". The recommended dispositions of the requests are as follows:

I. Twelve study requests were assigned a "1" priority:

SCR 103\* - Retirement Study

SCR 26 - Penal and Correctional Systems Study Committee

H.F. 784 - Mental Health and Juvenile Institutions Study Committee (Subject matter of HCR 128 from page 3 of "Requests" included.)\*\*

HCR 142 - (Tentative; would include SCR 120 and HCR 125 from page 2 of "Requests".)

HCR 160/SCR 145 - Elderly and Handicapped Study  
(NOTE: Final decision on appointment of a study committee to be deferred pending completion of initial staff research efforts in this and related areas covered by SCR 110, page 1, and HCR 141/SCR 126, HCR 120 and HCR 143 on page 3.)

SCR 148 - Land Use Study  
(Subject matter of HCR 131 from page 3 and of HCR 159 from page 4 of "Requests" included. Not contemplated that Study Committee will be very active until it can be determined what, if anything, Congress will do about land use this year; permissive federal legislation, primarily funding for planning at local level, scheduled for debate in U.S. House on May 28. With respect to HCR 131, intent is for Study Committee and staff to do preliminary research on regulating annexation, not that this matter be combined in same bill with land use legislation.)

SCR 135 - Eminent Domain Proceedings

SCR 143/HCR 156 - Livestock Study  
(Few meetings contemplated; stress to be on staff research and consultation with interested parties.)

HCR 145 - Adoption Procedures  
(Study committee of few members contemplated.)

SCR 121 - Campaign Disclosure Act  
(Mentioned on page 4 of "Requests" in connection with HCR 155, which is given a priority 4; procedure contemplated by SCR 121 is recommended.)

S.F. 277 - Professional and Occupational Licensing  
(i.e. continuing education)

"Stromer Proposal" - Comprehensive review of state policy in field of postsecondary education, added by agreement of Studies Committee. (A copy of the proposal headed "Supplementary Study Request" is attached to these minutes.)

- \* (Pursuant to legislative action, an actuarial firm was retained to begin this study during the 1974 session; much of the work is now completed and only a limited amount of legislative staff time should be required during the interim.)
- \*\* (Extension of Mental Health and Juvenile Institutions Study Committee through 1974 interim was approved by the Legislative Council at time Study Committee's report for the 1973 interim was presented on December 19, 1973. See page 13 of minutes of Council's meeting of that date.)

II. One study request was assigned a "2" priority:

HCR 122 - Securities Law Study  
(Bottom of page 2 of "Requests")

III. One study request was assigned a "3" priority.

HCR 121 - Road Use Tax Distribution Study  
(Middle of page 2 of "Requests")

IV. Twelve study requests were assigned a "4" priority:

Crime Commission Study Committee

SCR 109

SCR 114

HCR 119/SCR 113

HCR 124

HCR 136

SCR 136

SCR 147

HCR 155

HCR 158

HJR - 1004

HCR 153

(In effect HCR 165 on page 3 of "Requests" was also given a priority "4", it being agreed that the resolution was nullified by passage of the coal research bill.)

The following study requests are recommended for referral to standing committees of the General Assembly with intent that they be conducted by joint interim subcommittees:

-Senate Education/House Schools Committees

S.F. 1121 (top of page 5 of "Requests"; subject matter of HCR 157 from same page included)

-Judiciary Committees

Criminal Code Revision (added by agreement of Studies Committee, with suggestion that the joint subcommittee's main purpose should be to hold hearings on the bill, rather than to revise or study it further)

HCR 116

SCR 122

HCR 133

-Senate State Government/House Transportation

HCR 111 (expanded to include review of motor vehicle registration fee formula)

-Ways and Means

HCR 114

HCR 151

SCR 137/HCR 150

HCR 147

The following study requests are recommended for referral to the Legislative Council's Fiscal Committee, to be conducted either by the Fiscal Committee or an appropriate subcommittee of the Fiscal Committee or by joint subcommittees of the Standing Committees on Appropriations:

SCR 140/HCR 152  
HCR 166 (Natural Resources Subcommittee contemplated.)  
HCR 167/SCR 146 (Education Subcommittee contemplated.)

Additional recommendations of the Studies Committee are:

-That a decision on possible interim work in the area of no-fault automobile insurance be deferred until it can be determined whether there is likely to be any federal legislation in this area forthcoming this year.

-That the study request presented by SCR 115 be handled, at least initially, as a staff research project with a final decision on appointment of a study committee to be deferred until a research memorandum has been completed.

-That a special committee of the Legislative Council be appointed by the Council Chairman to handle the matter presented by SCR 131.

-That the request presented by HCR 135 be referred to the Capitol Planning Commission for its consideration.

-That the request presented by SCR 138 be referred to the new Energy Policy Council with a request that a report be made to the Council by September, for use in determining need for a study committee.

-That the request presented by SCR 117 be referred to the State Conservation Commission with a request for a report to the Council in August.

-That the requests presented by SCR 125, HCR 139 and SCR 139 require no action by the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

SENATOR WILLARD R. HANSEN  
Chairman