

MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 10, 1992

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Senator Don Doyle at 10:05 a.m. Those members present in addition to Vice Chairperson Doyle included:

Representative Mike Peterson, Chairperson
Senator Dale Tieden
Representative Bill Harbor
Representative Wayne McKinney

Vice Chairperson Doyle requested Mr. Mark Johnson, Legislative Service Bureau, to update the Committee on the status of the negotiations with Mead Data on the Iowa Code database contract update. Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the Service Bureau was preparing to send volume one to Mead Data. The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Carl Nielson, Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA), regarding sale of the CD-ROM from the ISBA. Mr. Nielsen stated that he had surveyed members of the ISBA and asked them how many fewer Iowa Codes they would purchase if they had the option to purchase a CD-ROM. He said that the results indicated that 399 fewer Iowa Codes would be purchased, 295 fewer Supplements to the Iowa Code would be purchased, and 138 fewer Session Laws. He added that many law firms are not equipped with the appropriate technology to utilize CD-ROM computer capacity.

Representative Harbor asked how many of the CD-ROM did Mr. Nielsen think ISBA would purchase. Mr. Nielsen replied that he estimates about 100 to start with and that the number would grow as more firms adapt to the new computer technologies. He added that most of the firms want to use the CD-ROM for research purposes. Chairperson Peterson asked whether ISBA membership had been surveyed regarding the cost of purchasing a CD-ROM. Mr. Nielsen responded that he estimates the cost to be approximately \$300 but added that in the state of Wisconsin the cost is \$87.50. Representative Harbor voiced his concern that he does not want the state to lose money and asked whether any figures have been compiled to show how much less revenue the state would receive if CD-ROM technology were adopted.

Senator Doyle directed a question to Diane Bolender, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, and to Sandy Scharf, Director of the Computer Support Bureau, regarding the cost in equipment and personnel if the state produced the CD-ROM and sold them ourselves. Mr. Scharf responded that he has no idea what the costs could be. Chairperson Peterson interjected that the production costs in the State of Wisconsin were approximately \$25,000. Ms. Bolender responded that a private company might be hired to market the CD-ROM. She added that the Department of General Services markets the Iowa Code at the present time and that it requires no additional employees to do so. Mr. Nielsen commented that the state should also consider the cost savings of having 400 fewer Codes to produce. He added that we are already selling computerized Codes to Mead Data and noted the inconsistency of denying an Iowa tax-paying corporation the same access.

Mr. Mark Johnson reported that the Legislative Service Bureau has received the third payment under the Mead Data contract and that the General Assembly should renegotiate the contract next year. In response to a request by Chairperson Peterson, Mr. Johnson explained that use of the data in the Mead Data contract is limited to the on-line computerized system and that Mead Data cannot reprint the Code or sell the tapes or in any way compete with the state's printed Code. Senator Doyle commented that the General Assembly will not save any money by selling fewer Codes this year so that it is not imperative that a decision be made immediately. He suggested that the issue be deferred. Representative Harbor suggested that deferral of the issue will allow the Service Bureau to determine the costs of producing the disks in-house and present the information to the Committee. The motion to defer, offered by Senator Doyle, carried.

Mr. John Pollak, Legislative Service Bureau, offered testimony updating the Committee on the Administrative Code project. He stated that about one-third of the Administrative Code pages are replaced on a yearly basis. He explained that a needs assessment has been completed with the executive branch agencies and that the Service Bureau will be withdrawing the old RFP and will issue a new RFP which would be based on more accurate information. Chairperson Peterson clarified that this would mean a delay in the process of computerization of the Administrative Code. Mr. Pollak confirmed the delay and stated that the Service Bureau would be looking for a firmer commitment on the part of the General Assembly before proceeding.

Ms. Kristi Little, the Superintendent of Printing from the Department of General Services Printing Office, provided the Committee with information on the distribution of legal publications from the State Printing Office. She stated that the office receives prepayment for all legal publications other than free publications and that once payment is received the information is recorded in a listing of ongoing

subscribers. She added that the publication distribution is fairly static. She commented that the inventory system is still done manually which makes recordkeeping difficult and that the inventory is counted and checked by the auditors two times per year.

Ms. Little stated that there are 72 remaining sets from the last Code publication and that they had received 3,560 requests for free sets of the 1993 Code. Ms. Little explained that Chapter 18 allows certain entities to receive free copies of the Code based upon their operational requirements. She added that the State Printing Office sends out notification to their customer base and that free copies are delivered first. Ms. Little suggested that to keep costs down, the Committee should reevaluate the numbers of free Codes which are distributed, study the possibility of making the Code available to state agencies electronically, and try to distribute the multiple volumes of the Code at the same time. She explained that to expedite the handling for paid subscribers, the vendor combines all four volumes of the Code when possible.

In response to questions by Senator Doyle regarding shipping costs, Ms. Little stated that local mail is used to ship Codes around the state capitol complex and that for those outside of the complex, the mailing cost is between four and five dollars per Code set. Representative Harbor questioned whether the Printing Office numbers correspond with the auditors' numbers following a count. Ms. Little replied that the numbers do correspond. Representative Harbor questioned the cost of establishing a computerized inventory system. Ms. Little responded that they are presently investigating that possibility, but have no estimate of the costs. Senator Doyle suggested that there should be an effort to limit the numbers of free copies which are available.

Ms. Diane Bolender presented the Committee with two issues regarding the existing bill drafting system. She explained that there is a problem with portions of the text being deleted and that the existing system may not be viable for future needs. A copy of the memorandum has been attached to the minutes. Representative Harbor expressed his concern that Unisys would cease manufacture of parts for the present system. Ms. Bolender responded that technology has changed so rapidly that a good life span for electronic equipment is seven years. Mr. Scharf added that this is the ninth session for this particular equipment and that the General Assembly should move to the use of personal computing terminals.

Representative McKinney commented that a system which was incorporated into his law firm five years ago is now obsolete. Ms. Bolender commented that the present system is unique from other systems because it automatically incorporates amendments into existing bill text. Mr. Scharf stated that the cost of maintenance of the old equipment is so high that the General Assembly could buy a new system,

but that the General Assembly must to find a system which can do mainframe amending.

Mr. Johnson discussed an offer by West Publishing Co. to purchase the entire Code printout. He stated that a firm price has not been discussed and that he is requesting the Committee's permission to move ahead and negotiate the price. Representative Harbor asked whether this would cause a decrease in the number of Codes purchased. Mr. Johnson replied that there would be no impact. The motion was made by Representative McKinney to allow the Legislative Service Bureau to negotiate with West Publishing Co. and establish a firm price. The motion was seconded and passed by the Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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