

## M I N U T E S

### STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 17, 1986

#### PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairperson Avenson called the meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council to order at 1:28 p.m., July 17, 1986, in Senate Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Committee members present in addition to Chairperson Avenson were:

Senator Bill Hutchins  
Senator C. Joseph Coleman  
Senator Lee Holt  
Senator James Wells  
Senator Calvin Hultman  
Representative Lowell Norland  
Representative Dorothy Carpenter

Senator Hultman moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

#### REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Chairperson Avenson reviewed a handout which identified one interim committee to be dissolved, the number of meetings and number of members on four previously established interim study committees, the proposal of four additional interim study committees, a proposal for a one-year contract relating to OWI enforcement, and a proposal for a task force relating to educational telecommunications.

Chairperson Avenson indicated that agreement had been reached to dissolve the Alternative Crop and Livestock Interim Study Committee. He explained that the Water Quality Interim Study Committee should be given three meeting days and the Bill of Rights Interim Study Committee should be given two meeting days. He explained that the Property Tax Interim Study Committee should have seven members from each house on the Committee and be authorized three meeting days, and the Public Finance Interim Study Committee should have five members from each House and be authorized three meeting days.

Chairperson Avenson explained that the issue of parolees and the number of inmates in the Iowa prison system has caused concern regarding the statutory prison cap placed on the prison system. He explained that the number of inmates in prison and the prison space available for the system should be reviewed.

Chairperson Avenson noted that Senator Hultman and Senator Hutchins have suggested a review of the pari-mutuel racing statute, specifically reviewing the status of a nonprofit, property tax exempt track and preference for Iowa-bred animals. He noted that there continues to be a concern regarding grain storage in the state for this fall's crop. He added that the state nursery issue arose during the state reorganization process and that an interim study committee should be created to report to the Legislative Oversight Committee on Reorganization regarding recommendations for the state-owned nursery.

He explained that a proposal has been offered from the Prosecuting Attorneys Research Council in New York for a one-year contract to review OWI enforcement and related items regarding drunk driving.

Chairperson Avenson indicated that Representative Norland suggested a study of the Uplink Telecommunications System, specifically relating to the Iowa school districts. Chairperson Avenson noted that a private sector Texas broadcaster has sold a system to at least two school districts in the state to provide certain courses and text material, commonly in the science area. He explained that the cost to these districts includes \$4400 per year, plus \$4400 for satellite dishes and installation, and additional costs for programming charges based on the number of students being served. Chairperson Avenson suggested that a task force with legislators, administrators, teachers, representatives of Iowa Public Broadcasting, and postsecondary institutions be created to obtain information and make recommendations relating to the control of the telecommunications area being utilized at the local school district level.

APPROVAL OF SPECIFICS RELATING TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

Senator Hultman moved that:

1. The Alternative Crop and Livestock Interim Study Committee be dissolved.
2. The Water Quality Interim Study Committee be authorized three meeting days.
3. The Bill of Rights Interim Study Committee receive two meeting days.

4. The Property Tax Interim Study Committee have seven members from each house and be authorized three meeting days.

5. The Public Finance Interim Study Committee have five members from each house and receive three meeting days.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### ADDITIONAL INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

Representative Carpenter asked how the number of committees and the number of meeting days approved for the 1986 Interim compared to the number of days and number of committees in the 1985 Interim. She expressed concerns regarding the ability of staffing and cost. Chairperson Avenson replied that the leadership has reviewed the relationship and that the 1986 Interim will be very similar to the 1985 Interim, specifically noting the dissolution of the Alternative Crops and Livestock Interim Study Committee. Senator Hultman added that part of the problems relating to interim studies is the number of mandated studies required by the 1985 and 1986 General Assembly. He indicated that nine studies were mandated and that the Legislative Council does not have a choice regarding these studies. Chairperson Avenson explained that during the Conference Committee process, often a study committee is created to review the controversy and that this compromise process has added additional studies which might not have been necessary. Representative Carpenter commented that she believes that the Legislative Council has approved too many interim study committees and indicated a preference that additional days later in the interim for the established interim study committees should not be approved. Senator Hultman moved that the following interim study committees, number of members, and the number of meeting days be approved:

1. Prison Cap-Prison Space Interim Study Committee, 5 members from each house, 3 meeting days.

2. Pari-mutuel Racing Study Committee, 5 members from each house, 2 meeting days.

3. Grain Storage Study Committee, 5 members from each house, 2 meeting days.

4. State Nursery Study Committee, 5 members from each house, 1 meeting day.

Senator Hultman's motion passed unanimously.

#### OWI ENFORCEMENT RESEARCH CONTRACT

Chairperson Avenson distributed a proposal relating to the Legislative Council authorizing the Chair and the Vice Chair to enter into a contract for a one-year study from the Prosecuting Attorneys Research Council regarding OWI enforcement research. The proposal authorizes the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a contract to specify the scope of the project. The proposal also includes the requirement that the Legislative Council authorize the funding specified in the study, \$134,889, but requiring that the study will be canceled unless the Legislative Council's expenditures matched on a one-to-one basis with private sector contributions. Chairperson Avenson emphasized the need for gathering empirical data regarding the consistency of OWI enforcement in the state. Senator Coleman expressed concern regarding procedures used by the Department of Transportation to revoke a person's license following an OWI arrest even when the person is not convicted of the charge. Chairperson Avenson added that certain judges are refusing to sentence individuals convicted of OWI charges.

Senator Hultman asked whether the proposal would include the issuance of an RFP. Chairperson Avenson noted that the proposal specified by the Prosecuting Attorneys Research Council is required to have matching funds and at this point in time he was not asking for the bid process to be undertaken. Chairperson Avenson explained that the RFP process would take additional time.

Senator Holt expressed the belief that the great variance in OWI arrests and OWI enforcement in this state is nothing new and has occurred for years. Chairperson Avenson agreed, but added that having the quantified data to back up that idea would be beneficial. He stated that there are also higher rates of recidivism in certain areas of the state in comparison with other areas. He explained that the proposal and the contract specifying more details of the study would be brought forth to the next meeting of the Studies Committee. Senator Hultman moved that approval for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Council to enter into a contract with the Prosecuting Attorneys Research Council for a one-year research project regarding Iowa's OWI laws be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

#### EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Avenson called upon Representative Norland to review the concern regarding the Uplink telecommunications issue. Representative Norland stated that there has been concern expressed regarding the expenditures and uses of the telecommunications area for educational purposes. He noted that there is certainly needs at the local school district level for

providing educational material through a telecommunications network and that it is important to determine how best to fill these needs. Senator Hutchins asked if the districts which have agreed to contract for telecommunication courses are receiving the courses from out of state. Representative Norland indicated that the material for the two school districts known to have agreed to contracts is coming from the state of Texas. Senator Hutchins and Representative Norland discussed the approval process by the Department of Education for telecommunication courses. Senator Hultman noted that the technology available at WOI-TV, the University of Iowa, and Iowa Public Television, should be utilized for Iowa school districts, rather than expending a great deal of money for out-of-state programs. Chairperson Avenson agreed, adding that it is necessary to utilize the technology available in Iowa to counteract the technology available and being purchased from other states. Chairperson Avenson expressed the desire to talk with Mr. Tom Urban regarding technology used at Pioneer Hybrid Inc. and that the Task Force also consist of representatives of the Department of Education and Iowa Public Television. He proposed that the leadership be authorized to establish a Task Force of leaders in the telecommunications field to study the educational telecommunications issue. Senator Hultman moved that the leadership be authorized to establish a Task Force relating to the educational telecommunications area. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION FROM DR. JOHN FULLER - LEAG

Dr. Fuller reviewed four specific areas relating to the action taken by the Legislative Extended Assistance Group:

1. Peace Institute Report. Dr. Fuller noted that the Peace Institute Report previously authorized by the Legislative Council is completed. He noted that if the Legislative Council wishes to distribute the report to the institutions of higher education participating in the survey used for information, an additional \$270 is requested to print and distribute the copies.

2. LEAG Studies for 1986-1987. Dr. Fuller explained that the four LEAG studies, relating to rural economic development, regional economic development, attraction and retention of quality teachers, and agricultural lending practices are underway and are being coordinated with the interim studies previously approved by the Legislative Council.

3. International Business. Dr. Fuller explained that he has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for an international business center at the University of Iowa. He explained that a seminar relating to international business for members of the Legislative Council will be provided in the summer of 1987, in addition to a LEAG study on international business in 1987.

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4. Northwest Area Foundation Funding Available. Dr. Fuller explained that the Northwest Area Foundation has made an additional \$8000 available for studies through LEAG for the Legislative Council. He asked that the Legislative Council specify two to four areas of additional concern for the specific studies.

Senator Hultman moved that the additional funding for studies relating to interim studies by the Legislative Council be taken under advisement and that members of the Committee notify the leadership regarding recommendations for further studies.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SUE LERDAL  
Research Analyst