

M I N U T E S
STUDIES COMMITTEE
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 7, 1981

The meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by Chairperson Representative Larry Pope at 1:40 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, 1981, in the Speaker's Room of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Pope were:

Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Calvin Hultman
Senator Lowell Junkins
Senator Dick Ramsey
Senator Ray Taylor
Representative Donald Avenson
Representative John Connors
Representative Lester Menke

Also present were Mr. Serge Garrison, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, Mr. Burnette Koebernick and Ms. Debbie Dahab of the Legislative Service Bureau, other legislative staff and other interested persons.

Chairperson Pope indicated that proposed Rules of Procedure for the Studies Committee have been distributed to Committee members for consideration. On a motion from Senator Hultman the Rules were adopted without change. A copy of the Rules is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Senator Hultman moved that the agenda be confined to recommendations on the subject area for studies, the number of members for each study and the number of meeting days for each study and that the actual membership of the committees would be considered at the August Studies Committee meeting after consultation with the standing committee chairpersons. The motion was adopted.

The Committee then decided to organize its discussion of proposed interim studies according to standing committee subject areas. Under the agriculture area Senator Hultman indicated that he really did not perceive a need for a study of an update of dairy laws as suggested in Senate Concurrent Resolution 23. He opined that water use is a subject of considerable importance in Iowa today and suggested that a joint subcommittee of the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources be authorized to look at the problem. Senator Hultman told the Committee that the Legislative Environmental Action Group also intends to study water use in Iowa and suggested that perhaps the two groups could work together with the interim subcommittee using LEAG research to supplement its findings.

Senator Hultman then moved that the Committee recommend the establishment of an interim subcommittee of the Committees on

Agriculture and Natural Resources to study water use as suggested in Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 and House Concurrent Resolution 22, that the subcommittee be composed of seven members from each house and that three meeting days be authorized for the subcommittee. Representative Avenson expressed the hope that the Legislative Council will approve additional meeting days for interim committees if such requests are made noting that many of the study areas tend to be somewhat comprehensive and are very important. The motion was adopted.

Under the cities area Representative Avenson suggested that a committee be appointed to monitor and recommend changes in inter-governmental relations caused by the Reagan administration budget. He noted that perhaps County Government Committee members might also be involved in such a study. Senator Hultman responded that he intends to propose that the Legislative Council appoint a group from among its members to look at this problem and to determine in particular whether another special legislative session might be necessary because of changes in programs caused by federal budget changes. Representative Avenson replied that he is more concerned about changes in local government officials' access to state and federal elected and government personnel caused by changes made by the Reagan administration. Senator Hultman indicated that he too is concerned about such access problems but that he prefers a Council subcommittee study the situation. He indicated that the Council subcommittee could also seek input from members of the Cities and County Government Committees as well as from people in the Governor's office involved in this area.

Discussing possible areas of study for the Commerce Committee, Representative Avenson inquired whether there was any interest in examining the effect of state laws on small businesses and the proposal that has been introduced in past years to create a small business clearing house that would provide a one-stop licensing procedure for small businesses. Chairperson Pope responded that he thinks that the interest in this area exists in the standing committees and that perhaps work on the problems of small businesses could be conducted during regular committee time during the legislative session. He also suggested that the standing Committees on Commerce might wish to use their one statutory meeting day during the legislative interim to examine small business problems. Representative Avenson moved that the Studies Committee recommend creation of a subcommittee of the standing Committees on Commerce composed of five members from each house to examine small business problems and that the subcommittee be authorized one meeting day at this point. Senator Taylor pointed out that the subcommittee might wish to consider the findings of the Duplicatory Inspection Requirements Subcommittee which met in 1976 or 1977. The motion was adopted. Senator Hultman then moved that a ten-member subcommittee of the House and Senate standing Committees on Commerce be authorized two meeting days to examine money market funds and mortgage investments as discussed in Senate Concurrent Resolutions 19, 29 and 34. The motion passed.

Senator Hultman moved that a subcommittee of the Committees on County Government composed of ten members be authorized two meeting days to monitor the revision of Department of Social Services' rules on jail standards. He noted that House File 806 enacted in 1981 delays implementation of departmental rules establishing minimum jail standards until a needs assessment of the individual county jails has been completed by the Iowa Crime Commission. Senator Hultman indicated that further legislative input is desirable in this area. The motion passed.

Senator Hultman then moved that the Studies Committee recommend the Legislative Council authorize the standing Committees on Education to meet for one day during the interim which would be in addition to their one day allowed by statute to discuss education funding and that the Council further authorize two ten-member subcommittees of the Committees on Education three meeting days each to further examine the subject area as determined by the Education Committee Chairpersons. Chairperson Pope interjected that the Fiscal Committee has recommended to the Studies Committee that the study mandated in Senate File 562 on the funding of the merged area school system be referred to the Fiscal Committee for assignment to the Education Visitation Committee during the interim. Senator Hultman responded that the Fiscal Committee can meet with the Education Subcommittees at some point during the interim on the area school funding issue. The motion was adopted.

Senator Hultman then moved that the Studies Committee refer the proposed study of workfare for public assistance recipients to the Legislative Fiscal Committee. Representative Avenson remarked that there has been some interest in examining the feasibility of establishing a medical assistance program for persons who may be medically indigent but who are not currently public assistance recipients. The goal of such a program, he explained, is to ultimately save the state money by investing in medical care for such persons to avoid placing them on the welfare rolls. Representative Avenson recommended that this subject also be referred to the Fiscal Committee. The Avenson suggestion was included in the Hultman motion and the motion passed. Representative Connors then moved that the subjects of elderly abuse and elderly service programs be combined into a single subcommittee of the Committees on Human Resources consisting of ten members and that the study be authorized two meeting days during the interim. The motion passed. Representative Avenson then asked if there was any interest in studying the children's trust fund proposal which was considered during the last session but was not enacted. Chairperson Pope indicated that this legislation is currently being worked on by certain individuals in the House.

Senator Hultman then moved that a subcommittee of the Committees on State Government be authorized to study retirement systems, that the subcommittee consist of ten members and be allowed four meeting days. He further explained that the subcommittee may determine that there is a need for an actuarial study at some point during

its deliberations. The motion passed. Senator Hultman then moved that a subcommittee of the Committees on State Government be authorized to examine contracts and bidding procedures as outlined in House Resolution 15, that the committee consist of six members and be authorized two meeting days. Representative Avenson asked if there was any interest in examining the feasibility of the state establishing a rainy day fund which he explained would provide countercyclical aid to the state in periods of economic distress. No action was taken on this suggestion.

Senator Hultman suggested that while no transportation studies appear necessary at this point, after the August special session the Studies Committee might want to consider recommending the authorization of a general transportation subcommittee which would, among other things, monitor the study of the state Department of Transportation to be conducted by an outside consultant as called for in Senate File 561.

Chairperson Pope then moved that the Committee recommend a subcommittee of the Committees on State Government to examine disaster services, that the subcommittee be composed of six members and be authorized one meeting day. The motion passed. The Committee then adopted a motion by Senator Hultman that the Merit Employment Department study mandated by House File 847 be authorized two meeting days and be composed of ten members of the State Government Standing Committees and the State Department Subcommittees. The Committee then adopted a motion to reconsider a vote by which the Hultman motion on the Merit Employment study was adopted. Senator Junkins moved to amend the motion to include members of the Appropriations Committees on the subcommittee. The Junkins amendment was adopted and the motion as amended passed. In discussing possible study areas for the Committees on Judiciary and Judiciary and Law Enforcement, Chairperson Pope pointed out that the Fiscal Committee recommends a joint interim study committee on the structure, administration and funding of juvenile probation offices consisting of members of the Judiciary and Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committees. Senator Hultman recommended that the Studies Committee refer to the Fiscal Committee the issue of monitoring prison populations and conditions at the correctional institutions. The motion was adopted. Senator Coleman moved that the Committee recommend the Legislative Council authorize two meeting days during the 1981 interim to continue the court study initiated in 1980 as requested by Senate Resolution 12. It was pointed out that the subcommittee would consist of ten members as in the past. The motion passed.

Representative Avenson moved that a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the House Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement be appointed to look at sentencing alternatives as suggested in House Concurrent Resolution 27. The motion included the specification that the subcommittee be composed of ten members and be authorized two meeting days. The motion passed. Senator Coleman then suggested that Senate Concurrent Resolution 34 which deals with commitment procedures and the cost of care of the

mentally ill and mentally retarded and substance abusers be referred to the Fiscal Committee. No action was taken on this suggestion. Senator Hultman then moved that House Concurrent Resolution 40 relating to obscenity be assigned to a subcommittee of the Committees on Judiciary and Judiciary and Law Enforcement consisting of ten members and authorized two meeting days. The motion failed. Representative Avenson moved that a subcommittee of the Committees on Commerce be authorized to meet for one day to examine utility rate reform. He explained that in his opinion the General Assembly has made progress in this area and it is important to continue to monitor and develop new proposals. The motion failed. The Committee agreed to meet at 10:00 a.m. on July 8, 1981, in Room 22 of the State House to review the report to the Legislative Council to be prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau. There being no further business to come before the Committee at that time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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