

M I N U T E S

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 16, 1989

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on Wednesday, August 16, 1989, in Senate Room 22, State House, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Avenson at 1:22 p.m. Members present in addition to Chairperson Avenson were:

Senator Bill Hutchins
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Emil Husak
Senator Jack N. Nystrom
Representative Bob Arnould
Representative John Connors
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Representative Connors moved to dispense with calling the roll and to approve the minutes of the June 21, 1989, meeting. The motions were seconded and adopted unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE

Chairperson Avenson noted that a number of requests had been received by the Committee and that they are contained in the packet distributed at the start of the meeting. Chairperson Avenson proposed that the request for creation of a Task Force to study trade with the European Economic Community consist of three Senate members, three House members and six public members, with authority to hold two meetings.

Chairperson Avenson stated that the Joint Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committees requested authority to meet three days to study the merged area school system and to formulate policy and make recommendations to the 1990 General Assembly on higher education issues.

The other requests discussed were to create an interim committee to study Iowa's wholesale liquor markup with three Senate and three House members authorized to hold one meeting; for approval for one additional meeting day each for the Dropout Prevention Study Committee and for the Nongender Based Insurance

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Study Committee; for creation of a Code Publication Study Committee to consist of three members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and three members of the House Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee with authority to hold one meeting; and for authority for the Parks and Recreation Enhancement Study Committee to employ George Butler Associates, Inc. to conduct Part I of Iowa's Artificial and Natural Lakes study.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Avenson commented that the Committee had received a report submitted by the Energy Efficiency Study Committee stating that costs for the two expert witnesses who will appear before the Study Committee will include a fee of \$3000 plus travel expenses. Chairperson Avenson pointed out that the Legislative Council had previously authorized the payment of these fees and travel expenses. He added that the Committee also had received a request to extend the reporting deadline until October 18, 1989, for the survey of capitol complex employee child care needs being done by the Legislative Service Bureau. In addition a report was received that describes the Health Care Expansion Task Force's efforts to hire a consultant to carry out the tasks contained in S.F. 538 and a report prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau was received listing the status of the interim Study Committees' meeting days.

OTHER BUSINESSES

Chairperson Avenson commented that correspondence was received from Senator Doyle who indicated that the \$50,000 previously authorized to update the National Center for State Courts study is not necessary and that approval of this funding should be withdrawn. Chairperson Avenson recommended that the legislative members on the Air Link Transportation Commission be made voting members and that the Commission's deadline set out in its charge be extended to November 20, 1989; that an interim committee should be created consisting of five Senate and five House members to study the Department of Employment Services management and fiscal decisions and policies and be authorized two meeting days; and that public members submitted for appointment to the Quality Grain Marketing Advisory Committee not be approved for lack of gender balance.

DISCUSSION

In response to a query from Representative Lundby, Chairperson Avenson stated that past experience has indicated that having legislators as nonvoting members of a Study Committee or in this case the Air Link Transportation Commission has not worked and that legislators have taken a greater interest if they have the vote.

Representative Van Maanen commented that the request to create a study committee to look into the Department of Employment Services management and fiscal decisions and policies was previously considered and defeated by the Fiscal Committee. Senator Hutchins stated that the charge proposed to the Fiscal Committee had been revised and the present proposal would not include the employment of a consultant. Chairperson Avenson added that the proposed study committee is not an investigative one but is needed because expressions of dissatisfaction by employees have been publicized. Representative Lundby expressed her concern that the study committee could not adequately review the department in the two authorized days. Chairperson Avenson pointed out that all study committees are authorized a certain number of days but can request additional ones if needed, which would be the case with this study committee. He added that the creation of this study committee is not suggesting that a problem exists but rather is in response to complaints that have come from employees within the department.

Representative Connors moved that the proposed recommendations relating to the requests presented by Chairperson Avenson be adopted. Senator Coleman seconded the motion. An amendment to the motion was offered that specified that legislative leadership would make the appointments to the recommended study committees. The motion, as amended, was adopted unanimously. (A copy of the report of the Studies Committee is attached.)

There being no further business, the Studies Committee adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GOEDERT
Senior Legal Council