

MINUTES

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

September 15, 1994

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council for 1993-1994 was called to order by Chairperson Representative Mary Lundby at 1:06 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 1994, in Room 22 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Lundby were:

Senator Leonard Boswell
Senator Wally Horn
Senator Emil Husak
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Jack Rife
Representative Clifford Branstad
Representative Richard Vande Hoef

Also present were staff members of the Legislative Service Bureau, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, members of caucus and research staffs, and other interested persons.

Chairperson Lundby noted that a quorum was present. Upon motion of Senator Boswell and a second by Representative Branstad, the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 20, 1994, were approved without dissent.

REQUESTS RELATING TO INTERIM STUDIES

Chairperson Lundby stated that the Economic Development Service Delivery System Study Committee and the School Finance Review Study Committee have each asked for an additional meeting day. Without discussion, Senator Husak moved that the requests be approved with Senator Boswell seconding the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

The next item involved Representative Murphy's previous request for a study committee relating to children's services in the state. Chairperson Lundby informed the members that she had talked to Representative Murphy about incorporating his request into the charge of the previously approved Child Protection Task Force. Chairperson Lundby moved that Representative Murphy's request be included as part of the charge of the Child Protection Task Force. The motion was adopted unanimously. Chairperson Lundby and Senator Husak discussed whether the Committee should recommend increasing the membership of this Task

Force. It was finally decided to leave it up to Representative Murphy to make the request at the meeting of the Legislative Council.

The last item discussed was the creation of a study to review the government bidding process. Chairperson Lundby began the discussion by informing the members that for her, this topic arose as a result of a constituent of Representative Corbett complaining about the bidding process used by a Chapter 28E entity which failed to award the contract to the lowest bidder.

Senator Husak said that it is fine to make a comparison with other states as stated in the proposed charge of the study but pointed out that many times the bidding process specifies a preference for local or in-state contractors. Chairperson Lundby noted that this is also true in regard to minority and small businesses.

Senator Rife asked if this committee would look at the process of school districts as well as the state. Chairperson Lundby replied in the affirmative and added that it also covers Chapter 28E entities. Senator Lind wondered about the inclusion of Chapter 28E entities. Chairperson Lundby responded that this is something she has wanted to have studied for over a year but the latest impetus was from questions raised by Senator Gronstal and from Representative Corbett's constituent who complained about the process used by a Chapter 28E entity.

In response to Senator Lind, Chairperson Lundby said that she hasn't heard any comments from the League of Iowa Municipalities or the Iowa State Association of Counties. She also told Senator Rife that the charge would allow for the review of the Department of Transportation's bidding process. Senator Lind expressed his hope that this proposed committee isn't being established only because of one or two incidents. Senator Boswell stated that he did not see any problem with establishing the committee and moved that it be created. The motion was seconded by Senator Husak and adopted with Representative Vande Hoef voting his opposition.

A copy of the Studies Committee report, as amended by later action of the Legislative Council, is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GOEDERT
Senior Legal Counsel