

MINUTES
STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
July 21, 1993

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The third meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council for the 1993 Interim was called to order by Acting Chairperson Wally Horn at 12:11 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 1993, in Room 116 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Acting Chairperson Horn were:

Senator Leonard Boswell
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Jack Rife
Representative Robert Arnould
Representative Clifford Branstad
Representative Wayne McKinney, Jr.

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

Upon motion of Representative McKinney, the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 23, 1993, were approved without dissent.

PROPOSED COUNCIL STUDIES

Acting Chairperson Horn initiated discussion of the proposed studies recommendations which were distributed to the members.

The first proposed recommendation concerned establishing a natural disaster preparedness task force. Senator Rife wondered whether the proposed task force had too many meeting dates and too many participants. (Under the proposal, nine Senate, and nine House members, and four meeting days were suggested.) Senator Rife suggested that the Legislative Fiscal Committee would examine many of the financial aspects of the 1993 flood. Acting Chairperson Horn stressed the significance of the effect of the flood on state policy but stated that he would consider changing the suggested number of meetings and members. Representative Arnould stated that the large number of members reflects the fact that the flood has created unique problems throughout the state and these problems need to be represented. Representative Branstad expressed concern that the impact of the flood on the farming community would not be fully determined until the first frost; he wondered whether the impact of an early frost would be included within this study or whether it would be considered under the rural revitalization study. After discussion by the Committee, it was felt that the natural disaster task force charge was written broadly enough to include concerns over an early frost.

A motion by Representative Branstad to change the second paragraph of the charge from "assistance to Iowans;" to "assistance to urban and rural Iowans;" was approved without dissent. Representative Arnould moved to authorize nine Senate and nine House members and three meeting days for the task force. The motion was approved unanimously.

Recommendation two, to establish an Iowa rural revitalization study committee, and recommendation three, concerning the responsibilities of the Legislative Fiscal Committee regarding fiscal effects of the flooding, were approved without dissent.

Recommendation four concerned eligibility for per diem and expenses for legislators serving as members of a committee or subcommittee of the Iowa Health Reform Council. Representative Arnould moved to recommend increasing the proposed eligibility for payment of per diem and expenses from one meeting day to up to four meeting days and to finance these costs as a joint Legislative Council expense. This motion was approved.

Recommendation five concerned the MI/MR/DD/BI Service Delivery System Restructuring Task Force. Representative Branstad moved to recommend that legislative costs for the task force be considered a joint Legislative Council expense. This motion was approved unanimously.

Senator Boswell moved that the five recommendations be approved as amended. The motion was approved. A copy of the five proposed studies recommendations as amended is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There being no additional business before the Committee, the Committee adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN COOK

Legal Counsel

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PROPOSED STUDIES RECOMMENDATIONS

July 21, 1993

1. Natural Disaster Preparedness Task Force

9 Senate - 9 House -- 3 meeting days

Charge: Review efforts of local, state and federal governments to respond in a timely and coordinated way to protect the public health and safety in a crisis situation;

Review disaster relief services to determine the adequacy of assistance to rural and urban Iowans;

Review current land use and resource management policies and regulations of federal, state and local governments. Included is a review of the type, location, and use of water control structures, and allowable activity and development on flood plains; and

Make any necessary recommendations that would enhance the ability of government to respond and serve Iowans when disasters occur. Recommend steps that can be taken to prevent future flood-related disasters.

The Task Force should begin meeting as soon as the crisis dissipates.

2. Iowa Rural Revitalization Study Committee

5 Senate - 5 House -- 2 meeting days

Charge: Examine issues surrounding the expansion of rural economic development in Iowa, including the role of the state in providing financial and technical assistance, expansion of exports of Iowa's farm and value-added products, the effectiveness of existing export trading policy, and how best to rejuvenate or expand Iowa's livestock industry.

3. The Fiscal Committee of the Legislative Council should begin gathering information about state costs related to the flood-disaster. The Committee should meet as often as necessary to gather timely information on budgetary matters and responsibilities.

4. Legislators serving as a member of a committee or subcommittee of the Iowa Health Reform Council are eligible for payment of per diem and expenses for their attendance at four meetings. (These costs shall be paid as a joint Legislative Council expense.)

5. MI/MR/DD/BI Service Delivery System Restructuring Task Force -- Revise legislative membership to include one member from each caucus. The Task Force currently has two legislative members. (Costs shall be paid as a joint Legislative Council expense.)