



Legislative
Service
Bureau

MINUTES

Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

June 23, 1998

Fifth Meeting of 1997-1998

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Chuck Gipp, Chairperson	
Senator Stewart Iverson, Jr., Vice Chairperson	
Senator Michael Gronstal	Representative Dennis Cohoon
Senator Johnnie Hammond	Representative Ron Corbett
Senator Mary Kramer	Representative David Schrader
	Representative Harold Van Maanen

MEETING IN BRIEF

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1. **Procedural Business.**
2. **Interim Studies Recommendation.**
3. **Century Date Change Oversight.**
4. **Child Protection System Review -- Funding.**
5. **Studies Completion Date.**
6. **Materials Received by the Committee.**
7. **Attachment.**

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. **Procedural Business.**

The fifth meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council for 1997-1998 was called to order by Chairperson Representative Chuck Gipp at 11:11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 1998, in Room 118 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.



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Minutes Approved. The minutes of the May 27, 1998, meeting were approved without objection.

Adjournment. The Committee was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

2. Interim Studies Recommendation.

Proposed Studies Listing. At the commencement of the meeting, Chairperson Gipp distributed a listing of proposed studies developed by Chairperson Gipp and Vice Chairperson Iverson. This listing was discussed by Committee members and revised to reflect the Studies Committee decisions and incorporated into the Report of the Studies Committee to the Legislative Council. A copy of the revised listing is attached to these minutes as part of the Report of the Studies Committee. Significant Committee discussions involved the following:

a. Public Retirement Systems Committee. Chairperson Gipp noted that this Committee normally does not meet during even-numbered years. The Committee will be on call to respond to recommendations relating to certain public retirement system studies conducted during the interim.

b. Sentencing Commission. Chairperson Gipp informed the members that this recommendation for establishment of a Commission consolidates a number of study requests. He noted in particular that in addition to a review of criminal penalties and sentencing provisions, the charge includes the treatment approaches to rehabilitate juvenile and adult sex offenders and how to prevent future engagement in those activities.

c. Libraries. A study to review issues relating to libraries was proposed. The major issues involve funding and whether regional library staff should be treated as state employees.

d. Teacher Preparation Study Committee. Chairperson Gipp commented that one of the needs for this proposed study committee relating to teacher preparation is the fact that more than one-half of teachers in Iowa are not graduates of the State Board of Regents institutions. Senator Gronstal expressed his concern that only six members were proposed to be appointed to the Committee. However, he stated that he would raise this issue again at the full Legislative Council meeting.

e. Private Industry Employment of Inmates. Representative Schrader suggested that an additional study be added to the proposed list that would involve the review of private industry employment of inmates under control of the Department of Corrections. He emphasized the need to know the effect, if any, on the cost and benefits to the industry and local community. Members discussed recent news stories concerning the use of inmates in an egg processing plant. Vice Chairperson Iverson iterated that he contacted the board of supervisors of the county in which the plant is located to discuss whether the inmates were displacing regular workers and was informed that none were being replaced. Representative Schrader responded that he is troubled by industry spokespersons who have stated that without the availability of the inmates, they could



not survive. He then moved that a study committee composed of 5 members of the House and 5 members of the Senate be added to the list of proposed studies in order to review this area and that the Committee be authorized to meet for two days. The motion was adopted.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposed list of legislative studies, as amended, including referral to the Legislative Fiscal Committee of a question to study the State Medical Examiner's Office.

3. Century Date Change Oversight.

Vice Chairperson Iverson explained that the proposed authorization to the Legislative Oversight Committee to issue a request for proposals for review of progress in implementing century date change programming does not contain a specific dollar limit because past experience indicates that the proposals submitted typically provide for a cost proposal amount commensurate to that limit. The Committee unanimously approved this proposal relating to the duty of the Legislative Oversight Committee, subject to approval by the four legislative leaders from the majority and minority parties of the authorization to award a contract.

4. Child Protection System Review -- Funding.

Chairperson Gipp pointed out that a proposal in response to the request for proposals issued by the Office of Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman is enclosed in the members' packets. The proposal was submitted jointly by groups headed by Mr. Charles Bruner and Mr. Tom Slater. A motion to accept their proposal for the child protection system review was adopted by the Committee.

5. Studies Completion Date.

The Committee unanimously approved a recommendation requiring the interim study committees to complete their deliberations on or before December 18. It was noted that the date does not apply to the date on which final reports are to be submitted to the General Assembly. Vice Chairperson Iverson commented that an interim study committee may apply for an extension of this deadline.

6. Materials Received by the Committee.

The following materials were received by the Committee and filed with the Legislative Service Bureau:

- ◆ Proposed study committees and related items.
- ◆ Compilation of Studies Information, Revised.
- ◆ Proposal for the Child Protection System Review.



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7. Attachment.

- ◆ Report of the Studies Committee to the Legislative Council.

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