

M I N U T E S

IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

April 19, 1976

The eleventh meeting of the 1975-1976 Iowa Legislative Council was called to order at 12:45 p.m., Monday, April 19, 1976 in the Speaker's Room of the State House, Des Moines. Members attending the meeting were:

Speaker of the House Dale M. Cochran, Chairperson
President Pro Tem of the Senate Minnette F. Doderer,
Vice Chairperson
Senator Eugene M. Hill
Senator George R. Kinley
Senator William D. Palmer
Senator Steve Sovern
Senator Bass Van Gilst
Representative Elmer H. Den Herder
Representative Keith Dunton
Representative Jerome Fitzgerald
Representative William J. Hargrave
Representative James I. Middleswart

Also in attendance were Senator William E. Gluba, Representative Gregory Cusack, and a number of legislative staff personnel.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Representative Dunton, who reported on a meeting of the Council's Subcommittee to consider proposals made by professionals to study Title XIX, which had been held on April 6, 1976. The minutes of that Subcommittee meeting are attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

Legislative Fiscal Director Gerry D. Rankin also distributed to Council members present a copy of a draft contract agreement between the Legislative Council and the firm of Haskins and Sells for the conducting of the proposed study of the administration of the Title XIX program in Iowa by Haskins and Sells. Attached to the draft contract as distributed were two items, Exhibit A, a copy of the Haskins and Sells study proposal distributed to Council members at the March 4, 1976 meeting, and Exhibit B, a two-page outline statement entitled "Obligations of the Contractor".

It was noted that the first sentence of the draft agreement as distributed indicates that the agreement is "entered into this _____ day of April, 1976". Representative Dunton moved that the Council approve the proposed contract, and that the contract take effect on April 26, 1976. The motion was seconded by Senator Hill.

There was some discussion of the matter of the starting date for the proposed contract. Senator Doderer noted that, as indicated by the attached Subcommittee minutes, she has favored initiating the study after the conclusion of the present legislative session, although she acknowledged that this view has been opposed by the majority of the members of the Council's Subcommittee. She added that at the time of the April 6 Subcommittee meeting, she had stated that she would agree to whatever starting date might be acceptable to the joint Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittees of the Senate and House. She said that it is her understanding that some members of the Senate Subcommittee have not in fact been contacted about this matter.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Representative Cusack, Chairperson of the House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee, who stated that efforts to schedule a joint meeting of the Senate and House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittees to discuss this matter had been unsuccessful. He added that he had then asked Senate Subcommittee Chairperson Berl Priebe to "walk the matter around" among members of the Senate Subcommittee, and that Senator Priebe had subsequently informed him that he had done so and that there was unanimous agreement on the April 26 starting date for the proposed contract.

Senators Doderer and Gluba indicated they do not believe that all members of the Senate Human Resources Appropriations Subcommittee were in fact polled about this matter. Senator Gluba added that he does not believe the question is one of particular importance, although he said he does have some concern about the degree of legislative oversight of the study which can be exercised effectively while the General Assembly is in session.

In the course of further discussion, Representative Den Herder expressed the view that initiating the study April 26 will eliminate some extra travel by legislators involved in overview of the study, who will have to come to Des Moines for this purpose once the session has ended.

Representative Middleswart noted that on page 5 of the Haskins and Sells study proposal, attached to the draft contract agreement, there is a statement that "To carry out this study we will assemble a project team comprised of Haskins and Sells personnel and members of the staff of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau." Mr. Rankin confirmed that this has always been the intent with respect to the conduct of the proposed study. In response to a further question from Senator Doderer, Mr. Rankin indicated that the Fiscal Bureau staffers who will be involved, on a time-available basis, will be David Bolender, Marilyn Farr, and Eric Smith. Mr. Rankin added that these staff personnel have skills which they can contribute to the effort, and will at the same time receive valuable experience.

Representative Hargrave, pursuing the questions raised by Representative Middleswart and Senator Doderer, inquired whether the Legislative Fiscal Bureau will be in the position of sub-

sidizing Haskins and Sells beyond the \$30,000 price of the study, and whether inability of the Fiscal Bureau to provide personnel to assist Haskins and Sells at appropriate times would allow the firm to escape its contract obligations to the state if it chose to do so. In response, Mr. Rankin indicated that in discussions with Haskins and Sells he has talked in terms of providing the time of two persons to assist with the study, and that the Fiscal Bureau will have no difficulty in providing this level of service. However, he stated that in any case there is no clause in the contract agreement which would allow Haskins and Sells to escape obligations to the state by reason of the Fiscal Bureau's failure to provide assistance with the study.

Senator Hill commented that the experience which Legislative Fiscal Bureau staff personnel will gain in the course of the proposed study is likely to prove very valuable.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve the proposed contract agreement and to make it effective April 26 was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members present.

There being no further business to come before the Council at the meeting, it was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP E. BURKS
Senior Research Analyst

SERGE H. GARRISON
Director