

## M I N U T E S

### COMPUTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

June 18, 1986

#### PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The meeting of the Computer Outreach Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by the Chairperson, Senator Joe Welsh, at 9:40 a.m., June 18, 1986, in Senate Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Welsh were:

Senator Beverly Hannon  
Senator David Readinger  
Representative Bob Arnould  
Representative William Harbor

Also present were Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau, Mr. Thane R. Johnson, Senior Research Analyst, Legislative Service Bureau, and other interested persons.

#### REVIEW OF INFORMATION

Chairperson Welsh asked Mr. Scharf to review the information presented to the Committee at its informal meeting on May 29, 1986. Mr. Scharf distributed a list of public access subscribers for 1986, a list of organizations that applied for public access but declined a final hookup to the system, a listing of Computer Support Bureau costs for the public access in 1986, and a list of costs for legislator access to the legislative computer system. A copy of each list is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

#### LEGISLATOR ACCESS

Concerning the proposed costs for legislator access, Mr. Scharf stated that the JBM asynchronous protocol converter will have a dial-back system available with it. He stated that this system will provide the best security to the legislative computer and eliminate the possibility of damages caused by hackers. In reply to a question by Chairperson Welsh, Mr. Scharf stated that the dial-back system will provide around-the-clock access to the legislative system except, of course, during maintenance. In

response to a question from Senator Hannon, Mr. Scharf stated that the total equipment costs for the system would be approximately \$6,000 and that legislators' costs would be approximately \$400 depending upon what type of equipment they already have. In reply to a question by Representative Harbor, Mr. Scharf stated that there will be no additional costs to legislators other than the \$400 because his office plans to pick up the monthly line charges associated with the dial-back system. In reply to another question by Senator Hannon, Mr. Scharf stated that the system will be limited to four access lines at any one time. Mr. Scharf also noted that there is some additional flexibility with regard to the requirements for legislator equipment. He stated that he does not know at this time what problems may be caused by various models of personal computers being tied to the main system. He noted that the public access subscribers are required to have specific equipment which he does not plan to require of legislator users. He further stated that another area of concern is that there may be software problems with regard to the strike-through and underline features of the legislative system.

In reply to a question by Chairperson Welsh, Mr. Scharf stated that he does not believe there will be need for rules on legislative access to the computer, but if problems occur, there may be a need for definite rules later.

#### LEGISLATOR ACCESS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDED

After further discussion, Representative Arnould moved that the Committee recommend that the Legislative Council authorize the Computer Support Bureau to establish a program for legislative access to the legislative computer system and to purchase necessary equipment for the legislator access program. The motion was adopted.

#### NOTICE TO LEGISLATORS

Chairperson Welsh requested that Mr. Scharf send notices to legislators concerning the potential for legislative access. He stated that the Computer Support Bureau should investigate the potential for a government discount for the necessary asynchronous modem and the requirements for software for legislators.

#### 1987 PUBLIC ACCESS SUBSCRIBER COSTS

Concerning public access of subscribers and costs for 1987, Mr. Scharf stated that added features including Code search, Code retrieval, and Code index search will be available in 1987. He added that an additional fee above the basic \$600 fee would be appropriate for these additional features. In reply to a question

by Representative Arnould, Mr. Scharf stated that he believes a flat fee would be appropriate for these additional features at the present time. He added that consideration of a time-cost billing may be necessary if some subscribers are heavy users of the system, but he does not have staff at present available to handle the billings on a time-cost basis. In reply to a question by Representative Harbor, Mr. Scharf stated that he anticipates no problems on the public access program this year because he has sufficient equipment to handle the anticipated demand for the service. He added that the shortfall in the budget for the public access system was paid from his own budget and that this shortfall will be covered by the fees for the 1987 services.

#### 1987 PUBLIC ACCESS FEES RECOMMENDATION

After further discussion, Representative Arnould moved that the Committee recommends that the Legislative Council set the following fees for not to exceed 50 public access users of the legislative computer system for the 1987 calendar year:

1. Basic service only - \$600 annually.
2. Basic service with extended services including Code search, Code retrieval, and Code index search - \$1,000 annually.
3. Extended services only - \$600 annually.

The motion was adopted.

In reply to a question by Representative Harbor, Mr. Scharf stated that only the University of Iowa College of Law and the Department of General Services objected to the amount of the basic service fee for 1986. He added that they argued that no fee should be charged state agencies.

#### WORD PROCESSOR REVIEW

Chairperson Welsh commented that he believes the word processing features of the legislative computer system are too complicated for normal legislative use. He asked Mr. Scharf if changes could be made to make the word processing features easier to handle for legislators. Mr. Scharf responded that the system would need different terminals and different software packages than are currently used under the Sperry Mapper system. He also stated that there would be a problem trying to connect with the laser printers. Chairperson Welsh asked Mr. Scharf to investigate the costs and "user friendly" qualities which might be changed in the legislative computer system for easier use by legislators.

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There being no further business to come before the Committee,  
Chairperson Welsh adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

THANE R. JOHNSON  
Senior Research Analyst