

MINUTES

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 13, 1991

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by the Chairperson, Senator Bill Hutchins, at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 1991, in Senate Room 22 of the State Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa. In addition to Chairperson Hutchins, the following Committee members were present:

Speaker Bob Arnould
Senator Wally Horn
Senator Emil Husak
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Jack Rife
Representative Janet Adams
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Wayne McKinney

Also present were staff members from the Legislative Service Bureau and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Caucus Staff, and other interested persons.

Senator Horn moved the adoption of the minutes of the May 22, 1991, meeting of the Studies Committee, as previously distributed to the members. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

PROPOSED INTERIM STUDIES

A listing of 1991 legislative interim study committees as proposed by the leaders of both parties in both houses was distributed to the members. Chairperson Hutchins named each of the suggested committees and made more specific comments on a number of them. He brought to the attention of the members the two items listed at the top of the listing which stated that each committee must hold their final meeting by November 1, 1991, unless otherwise noted and that public members, if any, attending committee meetings would be reimbursed for expenses only if not otherwise eligible for expense reimbursement by the organization which they represent.

Chairperson Hutchins noted that the proposed study relating to the K-12 Education Reform originally requested would have many more members than is

practicable. He said that the leaders propose that this committee have five members from each house and seven public members. He stated that the proposed study involving agricultural chemical site remediation is contained in a house file which was passed to the Senate during the last few days of the legislative session and commented that there was insufficient time left to act on it. He noted that the study relating to the consolidation of economic development service delivery was also discussed during the just completed session.

Chairperson Hutchins also commented that the Quality Grains Advisory Committee is an ongoing study; that the one dealing with group health benefits for public employees is one that has previously met but it is felt that additional committee members, who are nonvoting, with expertise be included to assist this committee; that the review of the public retirement system is done every two years to address changes that are needed in the system; that the proposed Emergency Medical Services study may look at establishing ambulance districts similar to that of fire districts in order for ambulance services to be provided to all parts of the state; and that a review of the process of imposing civil penalties be done for due process questions because recent laws provide for the levying of substantial fines.

Chairperson Hutchins concluded by noting that the leadership proposes that studies relating to the reorganization of the Department of Employment Services, the improvement in revenue forecasts, and the review of technology transfer programs be assigned to the Fiscal Committee which usually meets the day before the Legislative Council.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Hutchins recognized Representative Lundby for suggestions on changes to the proposed studies which Representative Van Maanen, who is not a member of the Committee, would like to see made. Representative Lundby moved that the charge of the proposed study on Tax Fairness and Equity include language that the study would also review property tax exemptions and diversions. This motion was adopted without objection. Representative Lundby moved that the membership for the Enhancement and Consolidation of Economic Development Service Delivery Study be changed from three to five members from each house, which motion was adopted without objection. Also adopted without objection was the increase in membership from three to five members from each house for the Quality Grains Advisory Committee. Representative Lundby's last motion, adopted without objection, was that the charge of the Special Education study include language for the Special Education Task Force to look at funding for special education.

Senator Horn remarked that the study to look at improving state government efficiency and operations should possibly be expanded or another study be

authorized to look at similar government efficiency and operations for city and county governments especially in regard to use of local property tax for possible duplication of services. Chairperson Hutchins suggested that Senator Horn think a little more about this and consider offering a proposal for such a study at the next meeting. Also in regard to this proposed state government efficiency and operations study, Speaker Arnould moved that three public members be added. This motion was adopted without objection.

Senator Lind expressed his concern that the study, on the need to regulate business franchising, would not include the petroleum industry since the federal government has stated that the petroleum industry's retail places are not franchises.

Representative Lundby noted that the members have received listings of studies requested and queried if those that have not been proposed at this meeting are being dropped from consideration. She said that the reason she was asking is because SCR 19 and HCR 24 sponsored by the respective Committees on Commerce requested a study on the establishment of a statewide one-call notification program relating to pipeline excavation safety. She added that both Committees had a subcommittee look into this but it was realized that this subject was broader than could be handled during the legislative session by a subcommittee. Chairperson Hutchins said that the requests are still being considered but he thought that the federal government is looking into pipeline excavation safety.

Senator Husak moved that the suggested 1991 interim study committees, as amended, be approved by the Committee along with authorization for the leadership to appoint the members. The motion was adopted without objection. A copy of the Study Committee Report is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, it was moved and adopted that the Committee adjourn at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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