

M I N U T E S

COMPUTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 17, 1985

Noting that a quorum was not present, Chairman C. W. (Bill) Hutchins called the meeting of the Computer Outreach Committee of the Legislative Council to order at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 1985 in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Chairman Hutchins stated that the meeting would be informal and for informational purposes of those members present. Members present in addition to the Chairman were:

Senator David Readinger  
Representative William H. Harbor

Also present were members of the news media, legislative staff, and other interested persons.

Chairman Hutchins noted that the purpose of the meeting is to receive information from Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau relating to access to the legislative computer system by other public and private agencies and persons.

Chairman Hutchins recognized Mr. Scharf who presented a memorandum to the members of the Committee relating to access to the Legislative Computer System. A copy of the memorandum is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes. After disseminating the memorandum, Mr. Scharf briefly reviewed the memorandum for the information of the Committee.

In reply to a question by Senator Readinger, Mr. Scharf stated that he has not completed the study of all of the possibilities relating to connection to the Legislative Computer System. He stated that currently a subject index, bill history, bill text, and fiscal information is available from the System. He also noted that the Sperry Corporation is under contract to develop a Code search for the System.

Chairman Hutchins stated that a principal reason for the study being conducted by Mr. Scharf and the Committee is to assess the potential demand for the services of the Legislative Computer System by other public agencies and persons in the private sector.

In reply to a question by Representative Harbor, Mr. Scharf stated that the use of the Legislative Computer System by outside agencies would not affect the system's use by the legislative agencies. He stated that one of the basic requirements of the outreach system is to insure full use by the legislative agencies.

Chairman Hutchins commented that the purpose of the study by the Committee is to determine what services should be made available to outside users and that he envisions starting with a limited number of outside users as well as a limited number of services to test the system during its initial year or two.

Mr. Scharf noted that the Illinois Legislature had a considerable increase in the number of users and services since its outreach program was begun. Mr. Scharf recommended that the members of the Committee review the memorandum for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairman Hutchins requested that all members of the Committee receive a copy of the memorandum for discussion at the next meeting. He added that Mr. Scharf needs a decision by the Committee early this fall in order to set up the system and obtain outside users for the 1986 Legislative Session.

The informal meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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