

M I N U T E S

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

September 20, 1989

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on Wednesday, September 20, 1989, in Senate Room 22, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Avenson at 2:04 p.m. Members present in addition to Chairperson Avenson were:

Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator Bill Hutchins
Senator John N. Nystrom
Representative Bob Arnould
Representative John Connors
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Representative Connors moved to dispense with calling the roll and to approve the minutes of the August 16, 1989, meeting. The motions were seconded and adopted unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE

Chairperson Avenson commented that a number of requests have been received by the Committee, that those requests have been distributed to the members in the packet they received and stated that he would provide the legislative leadership's recommendations on each request. He noted that the first request is for approval of additional meeting days for the Health Care Expansion Task Force and that additional requests include approval of expenses for a speaker for the Nongender Based Insurance Study Committee, approval of speakers' fees and expenses for Carrier Competition in Workers' Compensation Insurance Study Committee, and approval of expenses for a speaker for the Workers' Compensation Study Committee.

Chairperson Avenson pointed out that as a result of Senator Boswell's medical operation, a request is submitted to extend the deadline for completion of the work of the New Iowa Plan for the '90s Study Committee. He commented that there is also a request for approval for two additional meeting days for the Drug Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Study Committee.

Chairperson Avenson noted that the Studies Committee has received a Fiscal Committee report containing requests for appointment of members and approval of meeting days.

Senator Hultman moved that the request for a three-day legislative visitation of the Iowa Department of Public Health by the Health and Human Rights Joint Appropriations Subcommittee be deleted from the request list. There being no objection, the request was deleted.

Chairperson Avenson noted the receipt of a gender-balanced membership list from the Secretary of Agriculture who is seeking approval of the appointments to the Quality Grain Advisory Committee. Approval by the Legislative Council of the membership of the Advisory Committee had been deferred in August because the membership was not gender-balanced.

Chairperson Avenson commented to the Committee that there is a request from Senator Doyle that a new juvenile law interim study committee be established consisting of three members of the Senate and three members of the House and that approval be given for two meeting days. In addition, Chairperson Avenson added, approval is being sought to increase the membership of the Liquor System Analysis Study Committee and the Iowa Agricultural Trade Relations with the European Economic Community Study Committee from three members from each house to five members from each house, resulting in a total of ten members for each of those committees.

In addition, Chairperson Avenson suggested that a request be made to the Department of Education to submit a proposal to the Legislative Council for conducting a literacy assessment in Iowa.

Senator Hultman noted there is a request for reimbursement of a particular individual's travel expenses and expressed his concern for allowing travel expenses for people to attend interim committees unless the committees have specifically requested those individuals to appear to speak before them. Senator Hultman also wondered why the Studies Committee is considering recommending approval of travel expenses for speakers who have already come and made their presentations before the study committees. Chairperson Avenson's response was that the study committee chairpersons had contacted the leadership about reimbursement of these expenses prior to the speakers' appearances and received their approval. He added that approval from the Legislative Council was not obtained before the expenses were incurred because the Legislative Council did not meet before the study committees' meetings were held.

Chairperson Avenson noted that the Studies Committee has received the following reports for filing: the progress report from the Nongender Based Insurance Study Committee and a report on the activities of the interim studies committees prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau.

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Senator Hutchins moved that consideration of the Fiscal Committee Report containing requests for appointment of members and approval of meeting days be deleted from consideration. There being no objection, the Fiscal Committee Report relating to appointments and meeting days was deleted.

Senator Hutchins moved that the requests enumerated by Chairperson Avenson and not deleted by the Committee be recommended for approval of the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Senator Hutchins moved that the Studies Committee establish a policy relating to the activities of legislators who have requested or expressed interest in participating in performance evaluations conducted by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. This motion was seconded and adopted unanimously. Chairperson Avenson requested the authority for bipartisan leadership to appoint the additional members of the expanded study committees and of the newly established study committee. There being no objection, the motion was adopted unanimously.

There being no further business, the Studies Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m. (A copy of the report of the Studies Committee is attached.)

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GOEDERT
Senior Legal Counsel

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