

MINUTES

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 21, 1992

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by Senator Wally Horn at 11:23 a.m. on Tuesday July 21, 1992, in Senate Room 22 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Senator Horn were:

Speaker Bob Arnould, Vice Chairperson
Senator Emil Husak
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Larry Murphy
Senator Jack Rife
Representative Janet Adams
Representative Clifford Branstad
Representative Mary Lundby

Also present were staff members of the Legislative Service Bureau, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, and Research and Caucus staffs, and other interested persons.

Speaker Arnould moved that Senator Horn be made Chairperson of the Committee. There being no further discussion, the motion was adopted without objection.

It was then moved that the Committee dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 18, 1992, meeting and that the minutes be approved as previously distributed to the members. There being no discussion, the motion was adopted without objection.

STUDY COMMITTEE REQUESTS

The next items of business considered by the Committee were requests by the existing interim study committees and requests to establish new ones. The first request was that submitted by Ms. Myrt Levin, Chairperson of the Tax Fairness and Equity Study Committee. She requested funding in the amount of \$118,182 plus expenses for Phase II, the tax study project, to be done by consultant KPMG Peat Marwick. Speaker Arnould moved that the Legislative Council perform a review as to how the money would be spent. After discussion between Speaker Arnould and Senator Lind, the motion was amended and adopted to require the Study Committee to carefully scrutinize the basis for the cost prior to initiating Phase II, the tax study project.

Representative Lundby inquired of Ms. Levin whether Phase I, the multitax model, is was on schedule. Ms. Levin stated that it is and said that the model should be operational sometime in October and will enable legislative committees to receive a better analysis of the effect of tax changes on different groups and classifications.

The Studies Committee then considered a listing of proposed study committees which sets forth the charges, meeting days, and number of members. This listing of proposed studies was approved for recommendation to the Legislative Council by the members without objection. Senator Lind asked if this listing is the complete list of all requested studies. Mr. John Pollak of the Legislative Service Bureau responded that this list is additional to the list provided to members at the May meeting. Mr. Pollak added that he is unaware of any request not contained on either one of the lists.

Chairperson Horn noted that a request was received for the Legislative Council to establish an interim study committee to work with and receive the final report of the task force on mental health which consists of representatives of providers, funders, advocates, and other entities interested in mental health. The task force is charged with developing a plan to restructure the mental health service delivery system. Chairperson Horn added that the study committee would be authorized not more than \$20,000 to assist the task force. The motion to recommend the creation and funding for such study committee was approved without objection.

The Committee next considered the assignment of four fiscal oversight topics to the Fiscal Committee of the Legislative Council. Representative Lundby expressed her concern that these topics are rather complex and that she wondered if the Fiscal Committee would have enough time. Speaker Arnould commented that no time limit or number of meeting days is specifically set out. He added that the Fiscal Committee usually works on its own time schedule and if obstacles develop, the Committee would probably request changes from the Studies Committee.

Senator Lind commented on his concern that there be coordination among the Fiscal Committee, Attorney General, courts, and other involved parties concerning the proposed uncollected fines study by the Fiscal Committee. He moved that the courts and other involved parties be included along with the Attorney General's Office in the charge to the Fiscal Committee, which motion was adopted without objection. In response to a query by Senator Husak, Ms. Debbie O'Leary, Director of the Senate Democratic Research Staff, said that the study would not include the Department of Revenue and Finance but would deal only with civil penalties, costs, and fees outside the tax area. Representative Lundby stated her desire for the Fiscal Committee to eventually bring the Department of Revenue and Finance and the Treasurer of State into the study for purposes of developing procedures and methods for collecting outstanding state debts. Speaker Arnould noted that the Fiscal Committee has broad authority to expand the charge and suggested that Representative Lundby inform the members of the Fiscal Committee concerning her wishes.

Senator Husak moved that the four Fiscal Committee studies be recommended to the Legislative Council for approval. There being no further discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously. The Committee, without discussion, adopted Speaker Arnould's motion to recommend that the bipartisan leadership be authorized to appoint the membership, as needed, for the study committees recommended at the meeting and for the Iowa Business Investment Corporation. A copy of the Studies Committee's report is attached to these minutes and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Senator Lind asked if there is a deadline for submitting requests for establishing interim study committees. Speaker Arnould answered that one could consider the September meeting of the Legislative Council as a deadline since, practically speaking, there will be little time after that to have additional study committees formed and meetings scheduled.

There being no further business, Senator Husak moved that the Committee adjourn, which it did at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GOEDERT
Senior Legal Counsel

2775LC