

M I N U T E S

SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 3, 1987

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The meeting of the Service Committee of the Iowa Legislative Council was called to order by Senator Joe Welsh, Chairperson, at 1:20 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, 1987, in Committee Room 24 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to the Chairperson were:

Senator Lee Holt
Representative John Connors
Representative Kay Chapman
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present were: Donovan Peeters, Director, Legislative Service Bureau; William Angrick, Citizens' Aide; Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau; Phyllis Barry, Deputy Code Editor; and Diane Bolender, Senior Research Analyst, Legislative Service Bureau.

Senator Holt moved that the minutes of the December 3, 1986, meeting be approved as distributed to Committee members. Representative Connors seconded the motion, and it carried.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIONS BY CITIZENS' AIDE

Chairperson Welsh noted that Mr. Angrick had mailed information to Committee members notifying them of a number of actions taken by the Citizens' Aide. He asked Mr. Angrick to briefly describe the information contained in the correspondence to Committee members. Mr. Angrick notified the Committee that it had received information on the following:

1. Annual salary report for the Office of Citizens' Aide, including notification of merit step increases of employees that will take effect on their review dates. He commented that the merit step pay increases will take effect with the pay period beginning June 12, 1987.

2. Annual travel report for employees of the Office of Citizens' Aide.

3. Information that two clerical employees opted to be paid for overtime worked and the amounts of overtime paid since January 1, 1987.

4. Notification that Ms. Susan Voss, Legal Analyst, will again accept a summer teaching position at the Des Moines Area Community College.

5. Notification that Mr. Angrick has engaged the state's Adaptive Equipment Specialist to perform an accessibility study of the building in which the Office of Citizens' Aide is located. The study was performed because the Citizens' Aide received several comments that the building is not accessible to handicapped individuals. Mr. Angrick commented that the recommendations of the Adaptive Equipment Specialist have been submitted to the Department of General Services for their consideration. Chairperson Welsh stated that if Mr. Angrick is not satisfied with the response he receives from the Department of General Services, Mr. Angrick should request approval from the Service Committee and the Legislative Council to have the changes in building accessibility made independently.

6. Mr. Angrick presented information about two cases in Federal Court concerning a former employee of the office being used as a special investigator and expert witness. He commented that the first case has been resolved, and he is awaiting an intervention determination on the other case. Copies of the interventions and the briefs may be obtained from the Office of Citizens' Aide.

7. Ms. Susan Voss, Legal Analyst, has been directed to apply for admission to practice before the U. S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, in the event that the Office of Citizens' Aide decides to appeal an unacceptable adverse Federal District Court order. Mr. Angrick intends to reimburse Ms. Voss for the cost of the filing fee.

8. Notification that the Office of Citizens' Aide will exceed its current operating budget on June 30, 1987, and Mr. Angrick will submit a full report after that date.

9. Mr. Angrick intends to commence action to fill two new positions previously authorized by the Legislative Council.

10. Mr. Angrick intends to hire a part-time clerical person during the next fiscal year if such clerical assistance is needed. He noted that the part-time clerical person will only be used until an additional full-time clerical position is filled.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF EMPLOYEE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU/IOWA
CODE OFFICE

Mr. Peeters asked that the employment status of Ms. Betty Snuggs, a proofreader in the Iowa Code Office, be changed from temporary to permanent full-time. He noted that Ms. Snuggs has actually been working on a full-time basis since March, 1985. In response to a question from Representative Chapman concerning additional cost for the change in status, Mr. Peeters responded that the change in status will not incur additional significant costs since the employee is already receiving health insurance benefits under a policy that was in effect when she was hired as a temporary proofreader. He noted that Ms. Snuggs, as a permanent full-time employee, will additionally accrue sick leave and vacation. In response to a question from Representative Stromer, Mr. Peeters commented that the number of proofreaders presently being used by the Iowa Code Office is considerably below the number authorized. Representative Connors moved that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve Mr. Peeters' request.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDY

Chairperson Welsh asked that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve the expenditure of \$20,000 to employ a consultant to conduct a study of the feasibility of the General Assembly establishing its own telephone system separate from the telephone system provided by the Department of General Services. He commented that he had asked the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to conduct preliminary studies. Mr. Prouty commented that the consultant's report could consist of two parts, the first of which would determine whether a system that is at least equivalent to the telephone system now provided can be provided at the same or less cost, and the second part consisting of the preparation of a Request For Proposal and an assessment of the results submitted by potential vendors. Representative Chapman asked that final approval of Senator Welsh's request be delayed until she is able to obtain further information. Chairperson Welsh agreed.

RESTORATION OF STEP REDUCTION

Chairperson Welsh noted that employees of the central legislative agencies incurred a one-step reduction in grade if they received increases in pay grade as a result of the adoption by the Legislative Council of the Report of the Comparable Worth Study Committee. He commented that Senate File 504 restored this one-step reduction for employees of the Executive Branch and he suggested that the Service Committee should recommend that the Legislative Council approve the step restoration for its

employees. Representative Chapman moved that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve the restoration of the step. Representative Stromer asked that a decision on the matter be delayed until after he could study the issue. Chairperson Welsh agreed to defer action on the motion until the next meeting. Representative Connors indicated that the House Administration Committee will be approving the step restoration for House of Representatives employees. Representative Connors also indicated that the effective date for any restoration of the step reduction should be as uniform as possible among agencies, even if it had to be retroactively implemented in order to do so.

VACANCY IN LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU

Mr. Prouty notified the Service Committee that he has begun soliciting applications to fill a vacancy in a Legislative Analyst position in the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to replace Mr. Reggie Harrington who has resigned.

ADJOURNMENT

The Service Committee adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANE BOLENDER
Senior Research Analyst