



# MINUTES

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

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### MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Jack Whitver, Vice Chairperson  
Senator Jerry Behn  
Senator Joe Bolkcom  
Senator Jake Chapman  
Senator Randy Feenstra  
Senator Pam Jochum  
Senator Jim Lykam  
Senator Janet Petersen  
Senator Amanda Ragan  
Senator Charles Schneider  
Senator Amy Sinclair  
Senator Dan Zumbach

Representative Pat Grassley, Chairperson  
Representative Jane Bloomingdale  
Representative Dave Deyoe  
Representative Chris Hall  
Representative Lee Hein  
Representative Brian Meyer  
Representative Gary M. Mohr  
Representative Jo Oldson  
Representative Todd Prichard  
Representative Sharon S. Steckman  
Representative John H. Wills  
Representative Matt W. Windschitl

LSA CONTACTS: Organizational staffing provided by: Glen Dickinson, Secretary to the Legislative Council, 515.281.4616; and Timothy McDermott, Legal Division Director, 515.281.8090; Minutes prepared by: Rachele Hjelmaas, Legal Editor, 515.281.8127

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### I. Procedural Business

**Call to Order.** The fourth meeting of the 2019-2020 Legislative Council was called to order by Chairperson Grassley at 10:03 a.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2020. All members present were in attendance via a telecommunications connection.

**Approval of Prior Minutes.** Vice Chairperson Whitver moved that the minutes of the Legislative Council meeting of April 9, 2020, be approved without additions or corrections. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

### II. SCR 102 — Extension of Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Whitver moved to extend the adjournment of the 2020 regular session of the 88th General Assembly, pursuant to SCR 102 (attached), until 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2020, unless the adjournment is shortened or further extended prior to that time by the Legislative Council.

Senator Peterson asked whether there are plans to implement specific health and safety measures for legislators, staff, and the general public when the General Assembly reconvenes, and if so, when those plans will be available; what measures will be in place to provide transparency during the legislative process when the General Assembly reconvenes; and whether the guidelines recommended by health experts or the Governor will determine when it is safe for the General Assembly to reconvene. Vice Chairperson Whitver responded leadership has been working on health and safety plans that will be available prior to the time the General Assembly reconvenes, the Capitol will be open to the public when the General Assembly reconvenes, leadership is looking into the enhanced use of technology to provide a safe means for public participation in the legislative process, and they will be taking into account the recommendations from both the Governor and the Iowa Department of Public Health in determining a safe return date.



Senator Jochum asked what specific criteria leadership is looking at to ensure a safe return date and whether that return date might be extended into June given reports that COVID-19 cases are not expected to peak in Iowa and the Des Moines area for a few weeks. Vice Chairperson Whitver responded the General Assembly will reconvene when it is safe and responsible to do so and when they have all of the data necessary to complete a budget.

Senator Bolkcom asked about rumors there may be separate policy and budget sessions and if there are any updates about the budget process. Vice Chairperson Whitver responded that many different scenarios have been discussed, but nothing is concrete right now. There is quite a bit of information they still need before they can put a budget together including the impact of the federal CARES Act on state revenues and other economic indicators. A date has not been scheduled for the Revenue Estimating Conference to meet. Chairperson Grassley stated it is difficult to make any predictions at this point. He emphasized the expectation that when the General Assembly does reconvene, the process for both legislators and staff will be as efficient as possible.

The motion was adopted on a roll call vote, 24 to 0.

### **III. Attachment**

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#)