



MINUTES

Legislative Council

Thursday, May 14, 2020

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

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CONTENTS

- I. Procedural Business**
- II. SCR 102 — Extended Adjournment of 2020 Session**
- III. Attachment**



I. Procedural Business

Call to Order. The fifth meeting of the 2019-2020 Legislative Council was called to order by Chairperson Grassley at 3:33 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 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 29, 2020, be approved without additions or corrections. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

II. SCR 102 — Extended Adjournment of 2020 Session

Vice Chairperson Whitver moved to extend the adjournment of the 2020 regular session of the 88th General Assembly, pursuant to SCR 102(attached), until 9:00 a.m. on June 3, 2020, unless the adjournment is shortened or further extended prior to that time by the Legislative Council.

In response to questions by Representative Hall and Senator Bolkcom relating to the request by the Governor and leadership that the Revenue Estimating Conference(REC) meet again to provide updated information to the General Assembly to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the FY 2021 state budget, Chairperson Grassley responded that the new REC estimate would be used as a data point for use in crafting the FY 2021 budget. If the REC estimate is lower than the March 2020 REC estimate, leadership would need to take that into consideration in creating the FY 2021 state budget. Vice Chairperson Whitver noted that the REC estimate is just one source of information necessary to create the FY 2021 state budget.

Chairperson Grassley and Vice Chairperson Whitver responded to questions by Representative Prichard, Senator Petersen, and Senator Jochum relating to the health and safety protocols established by House and Senate leaders when the General Assembly reconvenes at the Capitol on June 3. Chairperson Grassley noted that the protocols were carefully considered and took into account guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Iowa Department of Public Health and suggestions from other health experts and the minority party. Health screenings will be required for staff and the public each day prior to entering the Capitol, but not for legislators. Face masks are also not required but they strongly recommend that face masks be worn by all persons inside the Capitol, including security officers, if social distancing is not practical. Chairperson Grassley noted that constitutionally, a legislator cannot be prevented from participating in the legislative session at the Capitol. He is encouraging all legislators to submit to a health screening, and the expectation is that all persons entering the Capitol, including legislators, will act responsibly and use their best judgment in monitoring their own health situations. Senator Petersen asked whether legislators would be able to access information relating to which legislators have completed a health screening and Senator Jochum asked about contact tracing if a person who has been in the Capitol subsequently gets sick with the COVID-19 virus. Vice Chairperson Whitver responded he would take both questions under advisement.

In response to questions by Senator Petersen and Senator Bolkcom relating to the process and procedure guidelines to be implemented when the General Assembly reconvenes on June 3, Vice Chairperson Whitver responded that standing committees will be held in each house's chamber, to be scheduled one meeting at a time, and members will receive committee meeting and debate schedules ahead of time to enable them to plan their presence in the Capitol. In addition to budget bills, policy bills that were previously scheduled to be debated during the second funnel week (week



of March 15) and any other eligible bills on the debate calendar at that time may be considered. All standing committee meetings will be live-streamed on the General Assembly's website. In addition, subcommittees of the whole will be held during standing committee meetings and there will be a process for members of the public who wish to speak on a bill or submit written comments on a bill. Joint budget subcommittees will not meet, but budget bills will be considered in each house's appropriations committee. Senator Bolkcom emphasized the need for a very focused session agenda and the need to conduct the remainder of the session as efficiently as possible to protect the health and safety of everyone involved with the General Assembly, especially legislative members who are vulnerable and who have high-risk health conditions. Vice Chairperson Whitver noted that remote voting will not be available for legislators.

Representative Steckman asked whether the Government Oversight Committee would meet to review the implementation of the Test Iowa COVID-19 testing program. She expressed concern about how federal and state moneys are being spent on the program and noted reports of inadequate testing machines and concerns about the efficiency of test processing. Chairperson Grassley responded he had not yet had any conversations with the chairperson of the House Government Oversight Committee.

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

III. Attachment

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#)