



MINUTES

International Relations Committee

January 23, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Annette Sweeney, Chairperson
Senator Kevin Alons
Senator Nate Boulton
Senator Carrie Koelker

Representative Eddie Andrews, Vice Chairperson
Representative Ako Abdul-Samad
Representative Thomas Gerhold
Representative Helena Hayes
Representative Elinor Levin
Representative Brad Sherman
Representative Mark Thompson

LSA CONTACTS: Organizational staffing provided by: Joseph McEniry, Senior Legal Counsel, 515.281.3189, joseph.mceniry@legis.iowa.gov; Minutes prepared by: Joseph McEniry, Senior Legal Counsel, 515.281.3189, joseph.mceniry@legis.iowa.gov

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I. Procedural Business

Background and Charge. The International Relations Committee was created by the Legislative Council in 1992. The committee's charge is as follows: develop goals and procedures that will facilitate international communication between the Iowa General Assembly and foreign governments on several different levels, including but not limited to interpersonal interaction between state legislators and legislative staff and foreign visitors, instruction about state and local democratic institutions, and the development of trade in foreign markets.

Call to Order and Adjournment. The meeting of the International Relations Committee was called to order by Chairperson Sweeney at 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 23, 2023, in Room 116 of the State Capitol, Des Moines. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

II. Legislative Information Office

Mr. Bob Lamberti, Legislative Information Officer, Legislative Information Office, provided background about the gifts that are available for legislators to present to international dignitaries. The gifts include Iowa-themed pens, ornaments, crystals, ties, badges, and lapel pins. Prior approval must be obtained before a legislator acquires a gift from the Legislative Information Office if moneys in the International Fund are used to purchase the gift.

III. Iowa Economic Development Authority—International Trade Office

Ms. Peggy Kerr, Program Manager, International Trade Office (ITO), Iowa Economic Development Authority, provided information about the ITO. The ITO provides services to Iowa businesses in developing and expanding export markets. The services offered by ITO include individual consultations, financial assistance, global market assistance, educational seminars, trade shows, trade missions, and international buyer groups. The recent and upcoming trade shows include EuroTier 2022 in Germany, the India Tr