

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T

BILL OF RIGHTS INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

December, 1985

CREATION

The Bill of Rights Interim Study Committee was created by the Legislative Council in 1985 for a two-year period of time to review actions taken by the legislatively-mandated Bill of Rights Advisory Committee and to begin the study of a fair and equitable state funding formula required to be in place before the rights for the mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, and chronically mentally ill contained in Senate File 473 can be implemented. The Study Committee was initially authorized three meeting days and met twice. The following legislators served on the Study Committee:

Senator Robert Carr, Co-chairperson
Representative Johnie Hammond, Co-chairperson
Senator Patrick Deluhery
Senator Larry Murphy
Senator David Readinger
Senator Richard Vande Hoef
Representative Josephine Gruhn
Representative Donald Hermann
Representative Joan Hester
Representative Jean Lloyd-Jones

The Study Committee met on October 17 and November 21.

TESTIMONY AND INFORMATION

At the first meeting the members of the Study Committee received testimony and information in the following areas:

Action taken by the Department of Human Services and the Bill of Rights Advisory Committee created by the Department of Human Services:

Mr. Charles Palmer, Director of the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Human Services
Ms. Melanie Fein, Department of Human Services
Ms. Barbara Mack, Chairperson of the Bill of Rights Advisory Committee
Ms. Karen Walters, Department of Human Services

Fiscal information relating to the Bill of Rights:

Mr. Steve Timmons, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Individual interested in the Bill of Rights:

Ms. Mary Etta Lane, Iowa Association for Retarded Citizens
Ms. Kathy Herring, Iowa Head Injury Association
Ms. Diane Glass, Governor's Planning Council for Developmental
Disabilities
Ms. Karon Perlowski, Governor's Planning Council for
Developmental Disabilities
Mr. Lynn Ferrell, Polk County Health Services
Ms. Lucy Duitscher, Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Ms. Mary Speer, Fair Housing for the Handicapped, Inc.
Ms. Judy Dierenfeld, Community Mental Health Centers Association
of Iowa

At its second meeting the members of the Study Committee met at
and toured the Woodward State Hospital-School. Testimony and
information was received from:

Mr. Charles Palmer, Acting Superintendent of Woodward State
Hospital-School
Ms. Melanie Fein, Department of Human Services
Ms. Karen Walters, Department of Human Services
Ms. Marilyn Straw, Parent from Des Moines
Ms. Grace Amemiya, Parent from Ames
Ms. Pat Johnson, Parent from Thor
Members of the local chapter of the American Federation of
State, County, and Municipal Employees

The members received written information relating to:

The liability of the state under the Bill of Rights.

The possible conflict under the scope language of the Bill of
Rights.

The number of handicapped individuals in Iowa not included in
those protected under the Bill of Rights.

PROGRESS REPORT

The members of the Study Committee reviewed the testimony and
information relating to the Bill of Rights. The Study Committee
will continue to meet during the 1986 legislative session and the
1986 interim to monitor the activity of the Bill of Rights
Advisory Committee and to review funding proposals for
consideration by the General Assembly before the rights contained
in the Bill of Rights can be implemented.