

F I N A L R E P O R T

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES STUDY COMMITTEE

December, 1984

The Legislative Procedures Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council to review the current procedures of the House and Senate and to make recommendations to enhance the efficiency of the Iowa General Assembly. The following members were named to serve on the Study Committee:

Senator Lowell Junkins, Montrose, Co-chairperson
Speaker Don Avenson, Oelwein, Co-chairperson
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator C. W. (Bill) Hutchins
Senator John N. Nystrom
Representative Delwyn Stromer
Representative Richard Varn
Representative Richard Welden

The Study Committee was granted two meeting days and met on October 31, 1984 and November 28, 1984. The Study Committee decided to focus its major attention upon recommending procedural changes to improve the appropriations process and discuss a number of proposals developed by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau that would change the structure of the appropriations subcommittees. In addition, the Study Committee discussed procedural changes that are necessary so that major bills can be sent to the Governor for action early enough that the General Assembly will be able to act on legislation which the Governor vetoes or item vetoes.

A third area discussed by the Study Committee was the development of a procedure for General Assembly action on administrative rules of state agencies. Since the electorate approved an amendment to the Iowa Constitution last November granting the General Assembly the authority to veto administrative rules, it is necessary that an orderly procedure for this process be developed.

The Legislative Procedures Study Committee recommends that:

1. The appropriations process using eight joint subcommittees with a separate appropriations committee in each house should be retained, but the eight subcommittee areas and state agencies included in each subcommittee should be revised along the lines recommended by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

2. The General Assembly should move toward the development of a legislative budget separate from the Governor's budget. Legislative leadership and Appropriations Committee leadership

should begin working on a legislative budget as soon as possible after the election in even-numbered years and during the fall during odd-numbered years. Appropriations Subcommittee Chairpersons and Ranking Members should attend the Governor's budget hearings for the agencies under their jurisdiction.

3. A Joint Budget Committee should be established with membership from both houses. The Joint Budget Committee should make decisions about and coordinate revenue and appropriations.

4. The Appropriations Subcommittee Chairpersons and Ranking Members, based upon the budget presentations they heard that were made to the Governor, should request that each agency under the subcommittee's jurisdiction transmit written budget information to the subcommittee. They should then determine which budgets of state agencies should be studied in-depth by the Subcommittee. Agency administrators should not make formal presentations to the Appropriations Subcommittee, but they should be present to answer questions posed by the Subcommittee members.

5. Each Ways and Means Committee Chairperson should attempt to phase in a division of the Committee into two or three standing subcommittees in order to better allocate the workload of the Committee. The chairs should also consider some joint meetings of the two Committees on major issues.

6. The leadership should develop, for consideration by the Rules and Administration Committee, a timetable for consideration of appropriations bills so that the General Assembly can complete action on the bills and send them to the Governor with session time remaining for the General Assembly to consider item vetoes.

7. The Rules and Administration Committees should develop a rule that allows the House and Senate by resolution to recess for a specified period of time after concluding action on legislation. The recess would provide time for engrossing and enrolling the bills and sending them to the Governor for his signature or veto. The House and Senate would then return from the recess with authority to act on vetoes and item vetoes of the Governor and consider bills relating to the vetoes.

8. The Legislative Service Bureau should specify in all bills drafted for the General Assembly an effective date of the January 1 following enactment unless a different date is requested by the sponsor or unless a different date is required to implement the legislation.

9. The Rules and Administration Committee should establish a procedure for consideration by the General Assembly of administrative rules. The procedure should require that administrative rules be considered in a resolution form, introduced by an appropriate standing committee, be unamendable, and require the affirmative vote of a constitutional majority in each house in order to veto a rule.

10. Resolutions relating to administrative rules should be placed on a separate calendar and be exempt from the deadlines imposed on other legislative bills.

Eight Subcommittee Proposal

Justice System

- Appellate Defender
- Corrections Department
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- Judicial Department
- Justice, Department of
- Law Enforcement Academy
- Parole Board
- Public Safety, Department of

State Government

- Administrative Rules Coordinator
- Appeal Board
- Capitol Planning Commission
- Comptroller and CDP
- Code Editor
- Council of State Governments
- Executive Council
- General Services
- Governor
- Legislative Fiscal Bureau
- Legislative Service Bureau
- Legislature
- Lieutenant Governor
- Merit Employment
- Public Defense, Department of
- Terrace Hill Authority
- Uniform State Laws

Human Development

- Arts Council
- College Aid Commission
- Historical Department
- Library Commission
- Public Broadcasting, Department of
- Public Instruction, Department of
- Regents, Board of
- Vocational Education Advisory Council

Natural Resources

- Agriculture, Department of
- Conservation
- Energy Policy Council
- Geological Survey

Hoover Birth Foundation
Mississippi River Parkway
Natural Resources Council
Soil Conservation
Water, Air and Waste Management
Water Resources

Social Services

Committee on Children
Foster Care Review Commission
Human Services -- Mental Health
Human Services -- Other

Regulatory and Licensing

Accountancy Board
Architectural Examiners
Auditor of State
Banking Department
Beer and Liquor Control Commission
Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission
Credit Union Department
Dental Examiners
Engineering Examiners
Insurance Department
Labor, Bureau of
Landscape Architectural Examiners
Medical Examiners
Nurse Examiners
OSHA Review Commission
Pharmacy Examiners
Pioneer Lawmakers
Public Employment Review Board
Racing Commission
Real Estate Commission
Secretary of State

Human Rights

Aging Commission
Blind Commission
Citizens' Aide
Civil Rights Commission
Handicapped Employment
Health Department
Substance Abuse
Veterans Affairs
Vocational Rehabilitation
Women, Status of

Business, Trade, and Transportation

Commerce Commission

Development Commission

Fair Board

Family Farm Development

Housing Finance Authority

Industrial Commissioner

Job Service and Refugee Center

Planning and Programming

Revenue Department

Science, Academy of

Transportation, Department of

Treasurer of State