

F I N A L R E P O R T

PUBLIC RECORDS STUDY COMMITTEE

December, 1984

The Legislative Council established the Public Records Study Committee pursuant to 1984 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, to study the recommendations of the Governor's Committee on the Iowa Public Records Law.

The following members served on the Study Committee:

Senator Tom Slater, Co-chairperson
Representative Florence Buhr, Co-chairperson
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Richard F. Drake
Senator Charles P. Miller
Senator John Soorholtz
Representative Tom Fey
Representative Rod Halvorson
Representative Donald Paulin
Representative George Swearingen

The Study Committee was authorized two meetings and met on September 27 and December 10, 1984. The Study Committee received testimony from Professor Arthur Bonfield of the Governor's Committee, the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, League of Iowa Municipalities, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Education Association, the Citizens' Aide, and Assistant Attorney General Earl Willits.

The Study Committee determined to recommend, without endorsement, consideration of the following recommendations of Professor Bonfield by the Standing Committees on State Government:

1. Amending the definition of "lawful custodian" to identify the custodian of records in the possession of a data processing unit or a storage unit.
2. Adding a definition of a "government record."
3. Reinstating an explicit reference to other exceptions to the public records law in the Code.
4. Removing the criminal penalties for violation of the chapter.
5. Clarifying the right of a lawful custodian to refuse inspection of a document which the lawful custodian is authorized to keep confidential.

Additionally the Study Committee recommended that the Standing Committees on State Government review the status of records held by the Board of Parole.