

**REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE  
TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
July 12, 2016**

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on July 12, 2016, and makes the following report for approval by the Legislative Council:

**2016 Studies.** That the attached proposal for studies for the 2016 Interim be adopted by the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Michael E. Gronstal  
Chairperson

## 2016 Legislative Interim Studies

### A. Statutory Committees

#### 1. Fiscal Committee (Iowa Code §§2.45(2) and 2.46)

**Charge:** The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include examining budget and expenditure matters, directing the administration of performance audits and visitations, and studying the operation of state government and making recommendations regarding reorganization to the General Assembly.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 2 days, 1 following an October 2016 meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference, and 1 following a December, 2016 meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference. Meeting dates to be approved by legislative leadership.

#### 2. Tax Expenditure Committee (Iowa Code §§2.45(5) and 2.48, 2016 Iowa Acts, HF 2459 §4)

**Charge:** The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include approving annual estimates of the cost of tax expenditures by December 15 each year, and performing a scheduled review of specified tax credits so that each credit is reviewed at least every five years. The sixth scheduled review is in 2016.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 2 days

#### 3. Health Policy Oversight Committee (Iowa Code §2.45(6) and 2016 Iowa Acts, HF 2460 §97)

**Charge:** The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include providing continuing oversight for Medicaid managed care, ensuring effective and efficient administration of the program, addressing stakeholder concerns, monitoring program costs and expenditures, and making recommendations to the General Assembly.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 2 days, 1 prior to and 1 following the November 8 general election.

#### 4. Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation (Iowa Code §§28B.1 and 28B.2)

**Charge:** Carry forward Iowa's participation as a member of the Council of State Governments; encourage and assist the friendly contact between officials and employees of this state and officials and employees of other states, the federal government, and local governments, and encourage cooperation in the adoption of compacts and uniform laws. The Commission has been appointed in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Council.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** As approved by legislative leadership.

### B. Other Interim Studies

#### 1. Violence in Iowa Study Committee

**Charge:** Examine the causes and impacts of, and possible remedies for, increased levels of violence in Iowa, including but not limited to developing more accurate and useful measurements of violent crime beyond annual crime statistics; identifying root causes of violence including conducting biographical research of offenders to determine common traits such as substance abuse, mental and physical health issues, educational background, and familial influence; reviewing existing Iowa criminal code provisions, sentencing guidelines, and incarceration, probation, and parole trends to determine frequency of use, effectiveness, and whether changes or enhancements are needed; and identifying any other "cause and effect"

variables arising through research. The committee may receive input from agencies and entities including, but not limited to, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Transportation, the Judicial branch, the Attorney General's Office, the Criminal and juvenile Justice Planning Agency, and representatives from law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, business and labor organizations, community and faith organizations, and other interested groups. The committee shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2017.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 1 day following the November 8 general election.

## **2. Prescription Pain Medications Study Committee**

**Charge:** Evaluate Iowa's response to the national prescription pain medication crisis from both a public health perspective and a law enforcement perspective. The committee shall assemble information which may include, among other topics, evaluating the number of prescription pain medications issued in Iowa and upward and downward trends; the number of deaths annually from prescription pain medication overdoses and illegal drugs, under-reporting of this information for older Iowans, the accuracy of such information, and the need for development of a framework for reporting and disseminating accurate statistics; the extent to which the medical community is following protocols to assist addicted individuals to reduce reliance and slowly withdraw from addiction, and the role of pharmacists in reporting possible addiction; the impact of pain medication scheduling; Iowa's ability to meet the medical needs of a growing aging population; available treatment models including in correctional settings; alternative pain management programs; the potential budgetary impact if medical needs are unmet and addicts are sentenced to jail or a correctional setting; and employment opportunity limitations for Iowans with chronic pain issues. The committee may receive input from agencies and entities including, but not limited to, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Safety, the Board of Pharmacy, the Department of Corrections, the State Medical Examiner, and representatives from the medical community, community-based corrections, law enforcement agencies, and employers. The committee shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2017.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 1 day following the November 8 general election.

## **3. Civil and Criminal Forfeiture Laws Study Committee**

**Charge:** Review Iowa's current laws on asset forfeiture contained in Iowa Code chapter 809A and related legislation introduced during the 2016 legislative session, and submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2017.

**Members:** 5 Senate/5 House

**Meeting Days:** 1 day following the November 8 general election.

## **4. Industrial Hemp Program Study Committee**

**Charge:** Evaluate the potential for and logistics of establishing an industrial hemp program in Iowa, including but not limited to the economic and environmental impact of establishing the program and regulatory aspects relating to industrial hemp production, and submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2017.

**Members:** 3 Senate/3 House

**Meeting Days:** 1 day following the November 8 general election.