REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE

TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 15, 1994

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on Wednesday, June 15, 1994, and makes the following recommendations:

1. Approve the attached listing of proposed Legislative Council Studies for the 1994 Interim.

2. Members of the following study committees shall be provided with the reports of previous legislative studies of the same topic conducted during the previous ten years: Substance Abuse Care and Treatment Program, School Finance Review, Management of Beverage Containers, State and Local Tax Review, and Sentencing.

3. Establish a requirement that all Legislative Council interim studies shall be completed by December 16, 1994.

4. Refer to the Judicial Compensation Commission the request in House File 2418 for a review of the services provided and compensation paid to senior judges according to statute, including the current funding mechanism of payment from the judicial retirement fund.

5. Authorize the joint bipartisan leadership to make appointments to Legislative Council Studies, permanent legislative committees, and other interim bodies on behalf of the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

REPRESENTATIVE MARY LUNDBY
Chairperson

PROPOSAL FOR 1994 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDIES

1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE CARE AND TREATMENT PROGRAM STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: The Committee shall review the services and programs available in Iowa for the care and treatment of substance abuse; analyze the variety of funding sources available for services, with particular emphasis on the appropriate utilization of Medicaid and third party sources; determine if there are gaps in the continuum of care; and closely review existing law in Chapter 125 to ensure that current law meets the needs of persons with substance abuse problems and the needs of new providers offering services.

Authorized 1 Meeting Day -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

2. REGULATION OF LONG-TERM CARE IN IOWA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Review the appropriate federal and state regulations, and the level of their enforcement, as they pertain to the health, safety, and quality of life of residents at long-term care facilities throughout the state. Particular attention should be focused on what shortcomings may exist in the regulatory framework which may result in inappropriate safeguards for the well-being of residents.

Authorized 1 Meeting Day -- 3 Senate Members, 3 House Members

3. SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Review the current K-12 school finance formula, with consideration given to the reliance on property tax revenues, and make any recommendations that will make the base formula adequate and more equitable while continuing to allow school districts the option to supplement their educational offerings. Determine if school districts that are receiving no more than the 100 percent guarantee or school districts that are growing rapidly are receiving an adequate and equitable amount of funding to meet the needs of the pupils of the district.

Authorized 2 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

4. MANAGEMENT OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Review the issues of waste management, collection and disposition of household waste, recycling, markets for recycled materials, the enforcement of bans, and the efficacy of the present beverage container deposit law. The study is to include costs associated with these issues, and the effect of these concerns on consumers, business, Iowa's economy, and the environment.

Authorized 2 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

5. STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVIEW STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Review the Iowa tax system using the criteria of the two-year Peat Marwick legislative study and make recommendations on how the tax system can treat the majority of Iowans more equitably; ensure that Iowa's tax climate remains competitive while ensuring that all individuals and businesses pay their fair share of taxes; review Iowa's various tax credits to ensure they are properly targeted to meet statewide goals in relieving tax burden and review the basic structures of Iowa's tax system to review whether features of the system are out of step with most states' tax systems and should be modified to be more in line with a majority of states. The Study Committee shall hold a joint meeting with the Economic Development Service Delivery System Study Committee to consider issues relating to the machinery and equipment tax and Subchapter S corporations.

Authorized 4 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

6. SENTENCING STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Review current criminal penalties sentencing practices, including but not limited to the effects of mandatory minimums, indeterminate sentencing, sentence structure and equity, length of sentences, judicial discretion, and parole board discretion, to correct disparities in the criminal code and determine the effects of sentencing practices on inmate populations at Iowa prisons and community-based corrections facilities. Conduct a comparative assessment of the penalties imposed for various crimes based upon the threat posed by the crime itself and also upon the risk generally associated with the criminal offender. Determine whether Iowa's sentencing practices need to be comprehensively restructured and develop a plan to assist with the restructuring.

Authorized 2 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM STUDY COMMITTEE

CHARGE: Examine the service delivery system for economic development programs and study the relationship between local and state governments and businesses in utilizing financial and tax incentives as economic development tools. Study the need for the benefits of a compact with other states regarding economic noncompetition and the steps necessary to implement such a compact, if desirable. Make recommendations for ways to improve the economic development service delivery system and any changes, if necessary, to state financial and tax incentives. The Study Committee shall hold a joint meeting with the State and Local Tax Review Study Committee to consider issues relating to the machinery and equipment tax and Subchapter S corporations.

Authorized 2 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members

8. ANIMAL AGRICULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE
(Charge previously approved by the Legislative Council on May 11, 1994)

CHARGE: Review animal agriculture in Iowa, and its impact upon the environment and nonagricultural uses of land and make recommendations to the Legislature by December 16, 1994. The Committee may, within the allowed meeting days, hold public hearings throughout the state.

Authorized 4 Meeting Days -- 5 Senate Members, 5 House Members,
6 Nonvoting Public Members:

Two public members who reside in a residential area and who are not actively engaged in farming with one each appointed by the majority leader of the senate and speaker of the house in consultation with their respective minority leaders.

The House and Senate Majority Leaders and the House and Senate Minority Leaders shall each appoint one of the following public members:

An independent pork producer actively engaged in farming
An independent cattle producer actively engaged in farming
An independent poultry producer actively engaged in farming
A representative of an Iowa environmental organization

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