

REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 20, 2001

(as amended and adopted by the Legislative Council)

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on June 20, 2001, and makes the following report:

A. The Studies Committee recommends approval of the attached guidelines for interim study committees.

B. The Studies Committee recommends continuation of these studies that were originally commenced in the 2000 Interim or are regularly conducted legislative studies, with the charges and number of members previously authorized:

1. Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Services Task Force (21 public members and 6 meeting days). Addition to charge: "Consider issues relating to involuntary hospitalization including, but not limited to, both inpatient and outpatient commitment proceedings and advanced directives."
2. Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Services Study Committee (3 Senate/3 House and 2 meeting days). Addition to charge: "Consider issues relating to involuntary hospitalization including, but not limited to, both inpatient and outpatient commitment proceedings and advanced directives."
3. Personal Privacy Issues Study Committee (5 Senate/5 House and 2 meeting days).
4. Public Retirement Systems Committee (5 Senate/5 House – created in Code section 97D.4 – report on pension portability to be submitted in September 2001).

C. The Studies Committee recommends authorization of the following studies for the 2001 interim:

1. Capitol Complex Parking and Transportation Needs Study Committee

Charge. Create a plan for the transportation requirements and parking needs on the Capitol complex for the next 10 years. Elements considered by the Study Committee shall include the effect of planned construction projects at the Capitol Complex, road projects in the Des Moines area such as the I-235 reconstruction and the Martin Luther King highway, and alternative solutions for reducing traffic at the Capitol Complex. The study committee may involve representatives of the local transit system, Department of Transportation, City of Des Moines traffic engineers, Iowa Department of Personnel, Department of General Services, Department of Management, and other groups that are relevant to the study.

3 Senate and 3 House

1 Meeting Day

2. Child Abuse Reporting Study Committee

Charge. The study committee shall consider creation of a statewide central intake unit by the Department of Human Services for receiving child abuse reports and address other issues associated with the state's child protection system. The study committee may utilize national experts to the extent possible, and include in deliberations individuals who are knowledgeable about child protection and prevention of child abuse, and other interested persons, such as representatives of the Department of Human Services, the juvenile court and juvenile court services, the Department of Justice, the Citizens' Aide, county attorneys, guardians ad litem, child advocates, and critics of the child protection system.

3 Senate and 3 House

2 Meeting Days

3. Distance Learning and Iowa Communications Network Study Committee

Charge. Study issues relating to distance learning and related Iowa Communications Network (ICN) issues. The study shall include evaluating the viability of establishing Iowa as a distance learning center, and identifying distance learning technology opportunities between interested agencies and entities involved in or potentially involved in distance learning activities, including but not limited to K-12 schools, area education agencies, institutions of higher learning, the Public Broadcasting Division of the Department of Education, the Department of Education, the Iowa Communications Network, the Information Technology Department, and military and private sector institutions or agencies. In addition, the committee shall provide recommendations concerning the future of the ICN.

3 Senate and 3 House

2 Meeting Days

4. Education Accountability and Oversight Study Committee

Charge. Conduct a comprehensive study of team-based variable pay and make recommendations for the implementation of a team-based variable pay plan component of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program enacted in 2001 Iowa Acts, Senate File 476. Recommend the manner by which standards of performance are to be determined, the level of expected growth, development of a student academic database, timeline and procedure for collection of student achievement data, identification of a team structure for purposes of the component, and timeline for implementation of the component. In addition, the committee may recommend assessment models for accurately measuring student achievement and a means of evaluation to determine the effect of the program on raising student achievement. The committee may recommend additional measures and reviews for the purpose of strengthening comprehensive school improvement plans. The committee may consult with representatives of the Department of Education, Iowa Association of School Boards, School Administrators of Iowa, Office of the Governor, and the state's professional teacher organizations during the course of the study.

5 Senate and 5 House

3 Meeting Days

5. Energy Efficiency in Schools Study Committee

Charge. Study options for improving energy efficiency in K-12 schools, area education agencies, community colleges, and other educational facilities. Consider ways to encourage schools to invest in energy conservation measures that reduce energy consumption, produce a costs savings, and improve the quality of indoor air. Review options to encourage schools, when economically feasible, to build, operate, maintain, or renovate facilities in a manner which will minimize energy consumption and maximize energy savings.

3 Senate and 3 House

1 Meeting Day

6. Health Insurance Market Study Committee

Charge. Review the current status of the health insurance market in Iowa with regard to multiple employer welfare arrangements and whether or not additional arrangements should be permitted to operate in this state. The study shall include a review of the regulatory oversight of all health insurance products sold in Iowa, particularly organized delivery systems, multiple employer arrangements, self-funded health programs, and workers compensation; conditions of the health insurance market; required assessments for the state's reinsurance pool; and participation in state supported health coverage products such as the HAWK-I program and its managed care component. In performing the study, the committee may consult with representatives from the Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce, insurance industry, business community, and other appropriate interests.

3 Senate and 3 House

2 Meeting Days

7. Lobbyist Regulation Study Committee

Charge. Review the regulatory requirements of lobbyists who work with the legislative and executive branches of state government, including statutory registration and reporting requirements, legislative rule requirements, requirements in rules of the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board; perform a comparison of other states' efforts to regulate lobbyists and lobbying activities; and develop recommendations concerning the most effective means of regulating lobbyists. The committee may take testimony from any source as the committee deems appropriate. The committee shall work with the staff of the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board in performing the study.

2 Senate and 2 House

4 Meeting Days

8. Local Elections Study Committee

Charge. Study the feasibility of implementing a set of uniform dates upon which local governments may schedule special elections and of combining school and city elections.

3 Senate and 3 House

1 Meeting Day

9. Political Campaigns Study Committee

Charge. Review the issues and proposals relating to how to most effectively and fairly control and limit the use of false or misleading assertions, untrue or deceptive representations of fact, or other false, misleading, or deceptive material in political campaigns. The review shall include a review of legal impediments to effectively control activity within political campaigns; other states' efforts to regulate conduct in political campaigns; recommendations regarding the most effective forum for resolving issues and complaints relating to the use of false, misleading, or deceptive assertions or material in political campaigns; and recommendations relating to what form any regulation relating to campaign conduct should take.

2 Senate and 2 House

1 Meeting Day

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Chuck Gipp
Chairperson

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

2001-2002 INTERIMS

ADOPTION OF RULES

Interim study committees must have a majority of the members representing each house voting affirmatively in order to adopt rules.

COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

Persons serving as public members of study committees are eligible to receive actual expenses only, if they are not eligible for expense reimbursement by an organization that they represent. In order for a public member representing an organization to be eligible to receive actual expenses, the organization must submit a letter to the Legislative Council indicating that the public member is not eligible for the reimbursement from the organization. Payment of the expenses is subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Legislative Council.

STAFF WORK FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

After consultation with, as appropriate, the Legislative Service Bureau (LSB) or Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) Director, a study committee chair may authorize research or legislative drafting work by the LSB or LFB for public members of study committees.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES

Public members of study committees may be nominated by designated organizations, subject to Legislative Council approval or subject to the approval of the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Council in consultation with the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

GENDER BALANCE

Appointment of public members to study committees shall be gender balanced.

VOTING BY PUBLIC MEMBERS

Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly or the Legislative Council, public members of study committees are nonvoting.

APPROVAL OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE DES MOINES

Any meeting or public hearing by a study committee held outside of Des Moines requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee or legislative leadership.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

When authorization is given for a study committee to hold a public hearing, the committee may hold one hearing as a body or individual members may each hold a public hearing or groups of two or more members may hold public hearings. However, for each authorized public hearing, no members of the study committee may receive compensation for attendance at more than one session.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR SPEAKERS AND CONSULTING WORK

Any expenditure by a study committee for a speaker or presentation requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council, or legislative leadership. Contractual consulting work for a study committee requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council.

SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

For the 2001 interim, the deadline for completion of interim study committee meetings is November 30, 2001 and for the 2002 interim the deadline is December 13, 2002. An interim study committee must meet the deadline or receive an exemption or a revised deadline date from the Legislative Council.