

**REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE
TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
(As Amended and Adopted by the Legislative Council)
June 23, 1998**

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on June 23, 1998, and makes the following report and recommendations:

1. That approval be given to the establishment of and authorizations for interim studies as provided in the following listing.

Public Retirement Systems Committee. The Public Retirement Systems Committee is on-call if necessary to meet concerning the comprehensive examination of the plan design for the Public Safety Peace Officers' Retirement, Accident, and Disability System, the Statewide Fire and Police Retirement System, and members of special classifications within the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System and other public retirement system studies in 1998 Iowa Acts, HF 2496.

Sentencing Commission. Review current criminal penalties and sentencing practices, including but not limited to the effects mandatory minimum penalties, mandatory service of sentence requirements, and sentence enhancements have on sentencing practices. Consider the effects that those sentencing practices and restrictions on Board of Parole discretion have on populations at state and community-based correctional facilities, as well as the numbers of persons on probation and on parole. Conduct a comparative assessment of the relative penalties imposed for various crimes based not only on the threat posed by the prohibited criminal conduct, but also by the risk associated with particular criminal offenders. Review the efforts of other states to implement reforms of sentencing policy which permit the effective management of correctional resources while accommodating public safety concerns. Review the treatment approaches available and used in the United States and other countries to rehabilitate juvenile and adult sex offenders and to deter those persons from engaging in criminal sexual acts or activities in the future. Make an interim report for the 1999 Legislative Session and a final report for the 2000 Legislative Session. The Commission may seek and utilize grants or other outside funding and assistance provided for research and other purposes of the Commission. Not more than \$65,000 is authorized for LSB to retain administrative staffing and cover other costs for this Commission.

6 Meeting Days

5 Senate/5 House Members (Initially, those assigned to the 1997 Interim criminal sentencing committee)

14 other members as follows:

- Three members of the Judicial Branch nominated by the Supreme Court
- The Attorney General or an individual nominated by the Attorney General
- A county attorney nominated by an organization which represents county attorneys
- An individual nominated by the Office of the State Public Defender
- A private criminal defense attorney nominated by the Iowa State Bar Association
- A director of a judicial district department of correctional services nominated by agreement of the directors of the judicial district departments of correctional services
- The Director of the Department of Corrections or an individual nominated by the director
- An individual nominated by the Iowa Board of Parole
- A victim rights advocate nominated by victims rights organizations
- The Commissioner of Public Safety or an individual nominated by the Commissioner
- Two members of the general public selected by the joint legislative leadership

Deregulation and Restructuring of the Electric Utility Industry. Review the actions of other states in deregulating and restructuring the electric utility industry and other states' experiences in enacting legislation for this purpose. Consider the potential impacts of deregulating and restructuring upon electric utilities and commercial, business, and residential consumers. Develop recommendations regarding deregulation and restructuring of this industry.

5 Meeting Days

5 Senate/5 House Members

Libraries. Review issues concerning libraries. The review shall include the issues surrounding changing regional library staff from regional board employees to state employees. In addition, review the funding for the State Library and its programs and consider local library funding issues.

1 Meeting Day

3 Senate/3 House Members

Treatment of Indigent Persons through University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Review the programs for treatment of indigent persons by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics under Iowa Code chapters 255 and 255A. The review shall include current programs and services and consideration of providing these services at alternative locations throughout the state.

1 Meeting Day

3 Senate/3 House Members

Teacher Preparation Study Committee

The importance of teachers in education reform has been highlighted in several recent reports. The report of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*, calls for plans to ensure all communities have teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to teach so children can learn, and that all school systems are organized to support teachers in this work.

The report of the Governor's Commission on Educational Excellence for the 21st Century calls for Iowa to continue recruiting, educating, and supporting a force of teachers who are well prepared in content and pedagogy, knowledgeable in research on teaching, and enthusiastic and capable learners.

While there is general growing consensus among educators and policymakers regarding these goals, more information is needed to assess the degree to which Iowa already meets the goals, to identify appropriate actions Iowa may take to move more rapidly to implementing the goals, and to project the resources needed to achieve the goals.

The study committee shall address the status of existing teacher and administrator preparation programs and support for beginning teachers. The review shall involve formulating and exploring teacher preparation options, including opportunities to augment or transform the teaching experience in areas such as student teaching, internship, and mentoring. The study committee shall consider proposals for expanding, improving, and retaining the supply of quality teachers to meet the impending increase in demand. The study committee shall issue a request for suggestions for program improvements and provide for review of relevant task force recommendations. The review shall include testimony from Regents' institutions, private institutions of higher learning, national and local organizations, administrators, practitioners, and other knowledgeable persons. The study committee shall identify policy options for consideration by the General Assembly.

3 Meeting Days

5 Senate/5 House Members

Private Industry Employment of Inmates. Review private industry employment of inmates under the custody of the department of corrections. The review shall include the economic impact of private industry employment, including the recoupment of inmate earnings, on the department of corrections, the benefits of private industry employment for inmates, and the effect of permitting private industry employment of inmates on the local community and on private sector industry and employment.

2 Meeting Days

5 Senate/5 House Members

2. **Studies Completion Date.** That interim studies shall complete their deliberations on or before Friday, December 18.
3. **Century Date Change Oversight.** That the Legislative Oversight Committee shall issue a request for proposals (RFP) or request for information (RFI) or otherwise develop a proposal and cost estimate for an independent review of state progress in implementing century date change programming. The Committee is authorized to award a contract for an independent review subject to approval of the Legislative Leaders.
4. **Child Protection System Review.** That the Legislative Council authorize \$150,000 as a supplemental budget item for the Office of the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman to review the state's child protection system as provided in 1998 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2359.
5. **State Medical Examiner's Office.** The question of a study of the State Medical Examiner's Office is to be referred to the Legislative Fiscal Committee for its consideration.
6. **Previously Approved Items:**
 - Task Force to Study Iowa's System of State and Local Taxation. Five meeting days to continue this study in the 1998 Interim.
 - Commission on Urban Planning, Growth Management of Cities, and Protection of Farmland. Funding in the amount of \$50,000 was approved for consultant work and other assistance for the second year of this study.
 - School Finance Working Committee. This committee was created with 5 Senate and 5 House of Representatives members and 6 meeting days.
 - Continuation of Child Welfare Work Group. This work group consisting of various members of the public who work with or are knowledgeable concerning child welfare programs was originally created in November 1997. The work group is to report to the members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Chuck Gipp
Chairperson

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