

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

September 16, 1975

The Administration Committee of the Legislative Council met on Tuesday, September 16.

The Committee received a report submitted by Secretary of the Senate Clark Rasmussen relating to air conditioning of both the Senate and House lounges. The Chief Clerk of the House David Wray concurred and participated in the report. The report was submitted by Mr. Frank Pulley, the consulting engineer. Briefly, the report stated that it is possible to air condition both the Senate and House lounges using air conditioning equipment formerly used by the Legislative Service Bureau. The equipment would be installed directly in the House and Senate lounges at an approximate cost of \$5,000 for each house. The equipment would not provide the best appearance, noise, or air distribution. It would take approximately three weeks to install the equipment. The Administration Committee discussed the possible air conditioning of the total capitol building within the future and recommends that no action be taken on the present proposal for air conditioning the lounges until it can be determined at what time and under what conditions the capitol building can be totally air conditioned. It was agreed that the construction of the new power plant would be of prime consideration. The Committee will again consider this project after it receives more information and will submit a report to the Council at the Council's next meeting.

The Committee discussed at length legislative procedures in regard to consideration of bills by the General Assembly and specifically those bills which have not been introduced and thus have not received printing and distribution to all members of the General Assembly and the public. The prime problem discussed was the fact that many of the proposed bills are not placed before all the members of the General Assembly and the public prior to being introduced and thus input is

not available. In some cases duplicate bills are being considered by different committees without knowledge of the leadership. Often there is no record of the fact that a committee or subcommittee is considering a bill. Discussion revolved around having every bill have some kind of number or record made of its existence whether it is an unsponsored bill drafted by the Legislative Service Bureau or a bill submitted by a department or from some other source. The possibility of making a list in either the Secretary of the Senate's or Chief Clerk's office was discussed as well as placing a notation in the Journal that such a draft was being considered. The prime policy question is whether or not a committee could consider a bill without it being assigned by either the presiding officer or majority leader. The possibility of providing by rule that a committee could not vote out a bill on the day it was discussed was also examined. The designation of such a bill as a proposed bill with copies being reproduced and not placed in the bill book was considered. The fact that such bills are often considered by a committee and voted out and then sent to the Legislative Service Bureau for drafting in final form was discussed. It was noted that such bills sometimes have errors in them and the Committee is not in a position to reverse itself nor can the Legislative Service Bureau make the corrections to the bill because it has been voted out as submitted. The fact that the public has no access to such bills is of prime consideration.

A possible procedure discussed is to have such study bills sent to the presiding officer who would then assign it to the proper committee. The Chief Clerk and the Secretary of the Senate would then make a record of such fact. The chairman need not assign the bill to a subcommittee or may assign it. If the bill is assigned to a subcommittee it first must go to the Legislative Service Bureau to be redrafted and checked in order that it is in proper form. The subcommittee would then consider the bill and make its recommendations to the full committee. The fact that a committee or subcommittee often generates its own legislation and copies are not available in its developmental stages would also have to be considered.

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The Administration Committee makes no recommendations at this time and agrees to give the problem further study and will make a recommendation at a future meeting of the Council.

The Director of the Legislative Service Bureau submitted a memorandum to the Administration Committee concerning the dissemination of documents. The Director had surveyed the various states in regard to the policies of such states and had received a diverse number of replies, some of them stating that they did not disseminate such documents as minutes to the general public, some stating that they had the same problems as Iowa, and others stating that they make charges in the form of money or postage for disseminating such documents.

It was agreed by the Administration Committee that such public documents should always be available to the public and that the Director should make a recommendation to the Administration Committee at its next meeting which would be designed to discourage persons from asking for documents which they may not need or which would place undue burden on the Bureau, but still provide for their availability to the general public under reasonable circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Speaker Dale M. Cochran, Chairman