

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SEXTON and BOLKCOM

A Senate Concurrent Resolution requesting an interim study of the feasibility of televising legislative proceedings in order to enhance public access to state government.

WHEREAS, the growth in citizen access to information through the internet, radio, and television, and other electronic means has greatly increased citizen expectations regarding access to government proceedings; and

WHEREAS, recent innovations in technical capabilities now allow widespread distribution of legislative proceedings at a relatively reasonable cost as evidenced by the availability of an audio signal of Iowa legislative proceedings now available via internet access; and

WHEREAS, citizen access to government proceedings was recently enhanced with the internet availability of both audio and television coverage of the Governor's budget address; and

WHEREAS, nearly 20 states currently provide complete or partial television coverage of floor debate and committee proceedings; and

WHEREAS, other public policy issues have arisen concerning the use of television in the Legislature such as allowing legislators to participate in legislative meetings via interactive television; and

WHEREAS, implementation and policy questions associated with televised legislative proceedings are

SCR 16
STATE GOVERNMENT

SCR 16

1 numerous and require careful consideration; NOW
2 THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Legislative
5 Council is requested to create a Legislative Study
6 Committee to meet during the 1999 Interim to consider
7 the feasibility of televising legislative proceedings
8 and to address other questions regarding the use of
9 television by the Iowa General Assembly; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the study committee
11 is created, it be directed to consider and make
12 recommendations concerning related issues, including
13 but not limited to options for distributing television
14 coverage via internet, cable television, the Iowa
15 communications network, high definition television
16 signals and other broadcasting approaches; rules to
17 address use of television cameras such as permissible
18 camera angles and lighting; public and private
19 approaches to implementing such broadcasting capacity;
20 storage, availability, and use of recordings of the
21 proceedings; options for providing full or limited
22 coverage of floor debate and committee meetings;
23 options for providing coverage of simultaneous Senate
24 and House of Representatives proceedings; propose
25 rules for use of interactive television by
26 legislators; and other technology and cost
27 considerations; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the study committee
29 is created, it should be directed to report its
30 findings and recommendations to the 2000 Session of

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1 the Seventy-eighth General Assembly.

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