

FEB 26 2002

Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SMITH

1 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the legislative  
2 council to authorize a comprehensive study of Iowa's  
3 system of taxation.

4 WHEREAS, the state, counties, cities, school  
5 districts, and special districts all have taxation  
6 authority; and

7 WHEREAS, Iowans are subject to taxation on income,  
8 property, purchase of certain merchandise and  
9 services, and use of motor vehicles and purchase of  
10 fuels, and subject to payment of various special fees,  
11 penalties, and assessments; and

12 WHEREAS, Iowa's approach to taxation has been  
13 criticized for its complex nature, incongruities,  
14 nonconformities, piecemeal development and reforms,  
15 inconsistent application, and lack of fairness; and

16 WHEREAS, the general assembly seeks to respond to  
17 the needs of educating the state's children; providing  
18 for the safety, health, and well-being of citizens;  
19 providing a business and industrial climate where the  
20 state's economic development can be maximized; and  
21 creating a regulatory climate in which the state can  
22 prosper in a modern economy; and

23 WHEREAS, a different approach is needed so that the  
24 people of Iowa may pay fair and reasonable taxes under  
25 a system of taxation that is simplified and  
26 understandable, with taxation benefits related  
27 directly to taxation revenue sources; and

28 WHEREAS, the general assembly has called for

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1 targeted reviews of taxation and then has ignored  
2 major portions of the recommendations; and

3 WHEREAS, if the state of Iowa is to be successful  
4 in modernizing and in becoming a more effective  
5 steward of the people's money, a comprehensive study  
6 of taxation is needed involving significant input from  
7 Iowa's economic community, governmental officials, and  
8 academia; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
10 SENATE CONCURRING, That the legislative council is  
11 requested to appoint a representative task force to  
12 meet during the 2002 legislative interim to perform a  
13 comprehensive review of Iowa's current system of  
14 taxation at all levels, including hearing reports from  
15 Iowa's citizens, comparing Iowa's taxation to the  
16 other states, looking to Iowa's future, and developing  
17 recommendations for the general assembly that will  
18 address issues of fairness, consistency,  
19 simplification, and understandability, as well as  
20 providing the economic and regulatory climate for Iowa  
21 to prosper and modernize in the twenty-first century.

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