

House File 2087 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY SCHICKEL

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a feasibility study of conducting floor
2 debate and other legislative business via the internet.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 5072HH 82
5 jp/rj/8

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1 1 Section 1. INTERNET LEGISLATIVE SESSION == FEASIBILITY
1 2 STUDY.
1 3 1. The legislative services agency, with the assistance of
1 4 the secretary of the senate, the chief clerk of the house of
1 5 representatives, and the department of administrative services
1 6 and other appropriate state agencies, shall complete a
1 7 feasibility study of holding a one-day legislative session
1 8 during the 2009 regular legislative session utilizing the
1 9 internet as the primary means for members of the general
1 10 assembly to participate in the session.
1 11 2. The options addressed in the feasibility study shall
1 12 include but are not limited to all of the following:
1 13 a. Legal requirements or impediments under the
1 14 Constitution of the State of Iowa or the Code of Iowa
1 15 regarding the general assembly's performance of its
1 16 constitutional lawmaking authority, including but not limited
1 17 to article III, sections 10 and 13 of the Constitution of the
1 18 State of Iowa and section 2.1 of the Code of Iowa.
1 19 b. Holding floor debate and voting on legislation in both
1 20 the senate and house of representatives via the internet.
1 21 c. Provision for the members of the general assembly to
1 22 participate via the internet from their home districts.
1 23 d. Providing real-time voice and image access to committee
1 24 and subcommittee meetings, debate, and voting.
1 25 e. Enabling public observation of testimony, public
1 26 hearings, and committee and floor deliberations via the
1 27 internet.
1 28 f. Providing a means for voice, recorded, and unrecorded
1 29 voting to be observed via the internet.
1 30 g. Identifying considerations to be addressed for the
1 31 session to conduct actual business or to be a demonstration.
1 32 h. Identifying actual and projected costs and cost savings
1 33 that may be realized if the internet would be used on a
1 34 permanent basis to conduct legislative business.
1 35 3. The legislative services agency shall report to the
2 1 governor and general assembly on or before December 1, 2008,
2 2 outlining the findings of the feasibility study, including
2 3 identifying the advantages and disadvantages of the options
2 4 presented, potential costs and cost savings, and potential
2 5 issues to be addressed if internet access to legislative
2 6 deliberations would be provided on a permanent basis.
2 7 EXPLANATION
2 8 This bill provides for a feasibility study of the legality
2 9 and practicality of conducting a one-day session of floor
2 10 debate and other legislative business via the internet. The
2 11 study is required to be conducted by the legislative services
2 12 agency with the cooperation of the secretary of the senate,
2 13 chief clerk of the house of representatives, and the
2 14 department of administrative services.
2 15 Specific options to be addressed are identified, including
2 16 providing for the capacity on a permanent basis and addressing
2 17 legal requirements under the Iowa Constitution and Iowa law
2 18 involving voting and the physical meeting location, and the
2 19 agency is required to submit a report to the governor and
2 20 general assembly on or before December 1, 2008.

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