

Senate Resolution 121 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY GRONSTAL

1 A Resolution conferring authority upon the standing
2 Committee on Government Oversight to conduct an
3 investigation of specified issues relating to the
4 Iowa Department of Administrative Services and the
5 Iowa Department of Workforce Development.

6 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the
7 management at the Iowa Department of Administrative
8 Services established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter
9 8A; and

10 WHEREAS, the concerns have specifically addressed
11 confidential settlement agreements with former
12 employees and related payments, hiring and employment
13 practices, and bidding, purchasing, and contracting
14 policies and practices in several state agencies; and

15 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding
16 the management at the Iowa Department of Workforce
17 Development established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter
18 84A; and

19 WHEREAS, the concerns have specifically addressed
20 the management of Administrative Law Judges in the
21 department's Unemployment Insurance Services Division,
22 the effect of this management on decisions made
23 by Administrative Law Judges, and management and
24 fiduciary practices related to unemployment insurance
25 compensation; and

26 WHEREAS, the standing Committee on Government
27 Oversight is empowered, pursuant to Iowa Code sections
28 2.15 and 2.23, to require information of state agencies

1 and departments and to conduct investigations with
2 authority to call witnesses, administer oaths, issue
3 subpoenas, and cite for contempt; NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the standing
5 Committee on Government Oversight is authorized to
6 conduct an investigation of issues relating to the
7 management practices and procedures at state agencies
8 and departments; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the investigation shall
10 be conducted in accordance with the full authority
11 granted the standing Committee on Government Oversight
12 by law including but not limited to the authority to
13 conduct the investigation, call witnesses, administer
14 oaths, issue subpoenas, cite and impose punishment for
15 contempt, and otherwise exercise and enforce these
16 investigative powers as authorized by and in accordance
17 with law, subject to the following:

18 1. The scope of the investigation shall be
19 confined to confidential settlement agreements with
20 former employees and related payments, hiring and
21 employment practices, and bidding, purchasing, and
22 contracting policies and practices at the Department
23 of Administrative Services and other state departments
24 and agencies; and the management of Administrative
25 Law Judges in the Unemployment Insurance Services
26 Division, the effect of this management on decisions
27 made by Administrative Law Judges, and management and
28 fiduciary practices related to unemployment insurance
29 compensation.

30 2. Subpoena authority conferred by this Resolution

1 shall exist until December 31, 2014.

2 3. A citation and punishment for contempt may be
3 issued and imposed according to the following schedule:

4 a. An initial citation may be issued by the
5 standing Committee on Government Oversight by a
6 majority vote of the members of the committee and is
7 punishable by a fine of \$500.

8 b. A second or subsequent citation may be issued
9 by the standing Committee on Government Oversight by
10 a majority vote of the members of the committee and is
11 punishable by a fine of \$1,000.

12 c. In addition to the fines authorized pursuant to
13 paragraphs "a" and "b", the Senate may by resolution
14 impose a punishment of imprisonment for a period of up
15 to six months.

16 4. Subpoenas and citations for contempt shall be
17 signed by the Chairperson of the standing Committee on
18 Government Oversight, the President of the Senate, and
19 the Secretary of the Senate. Warrants for contempt
20 shall be signed by the President of the Senate and the
21 Secretary of the Senate.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the standing Committee
23 on Government Oversight may meet at such times and at
24 such places as the Chairperson of the Committee deems
25 necessary; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the investigation shall
27 continue until completed, or until such time as the
28 investigation is terminated by the standing Committee
29 on Government Oversight by majority vote of the members
30 of the committee.