

Senate Resolution 13 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY GRONSTAL

1 A Resolution conferring authority upon the senate
2 committee on government oversight to conduct an
3 investigation of specified issues relating to the
4 Iowa veterans home.

5 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the
6 welfare of individuals residing at the Iowa veterans
7 home established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 35D; and

8 WHEREAS, the concerns have specifically addressed
9 the quality of care received by residents of the Iowa
10 veterans home, the involuntary eviction or dismissal of
11 residents, the manner in which residents are addressed
12 and treated, and resulting questions regarding resident
13 safety; and

14 WHEREAS, concerns have also arisen regarding
15 contracts and purchasing agreements entered into by the
16 Iowa veterans home; and

17 WHEREAS, the senate committee on government
18 oversight is empowered, pursuant to Iowa Code sections
19 2.15 and 2.23, to require information of state agencies
20 and departments and to conduct investigations with
21 authority to call witnesses, administer oaths, issue
22 subpoenas, and cite for contempt; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the senate
24 committee on government oversight is authorized to
25 conduct an investigation of issues relating to the
26 care, treatment, and safety of residents of the Iowa
27 veterans home, and contracts and purchasing agreements
28 entered into by the Iowa veterans home; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the investigation shall
2 be conducted in accordance with the full authority
3 granted the senate committee on government oversight
4 by law including but not limited to the authority to
5 conduct the investigation, call witnesses, administer
6 oaths, issue subpoenas, cite and impose punishment for
7 contempt, and otherwise exercise and enforce these
8 investigative powers as authorized by and in accordance
9 with law, subject to the following:

10 1. The scope of the investigation shall be confined
11 to resident care, treatment, and safety issues and
12 concerns, and contracts and purchasing agreements
13 entered into by the Iowa veterans home.

14 2. Subpoena authority conferred by this Resolution
15 shall exist for a 90-day period following the date of
16 passage of this Resolution.

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

19 a. An initial citation may be issued by the senate
20 committee on government oversight by a majority vote
21 of the members of the committee and is punishable by a
22 fine of \$500.

23 b. A second or subsequent citation may be issued
24 by the senate committee on government oversight by a
25 majority vote of the members of the committee and is
26 punishable by a fine of \$1,000.

27 c. In addition to the fines authorized pursuant to
28 paragraphs "a" and "b", the senate may by resolution
29 impose a punishment of imprisonment for a period of up
30 to six months.

1 4. Subpoenas and citations for contempt shall be
2 signed by the chairperson of the senate committee on
3 government oversight, the president of the senate, and
4 the secretary of the senate. Warrants for contempt
5 shall be signed by the president of the senate and the
6 secretary of the senate.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the senate committee
8 on government oversight may meet at such times and at
9 such places as the chairperson of the committee deems
10 necessary; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the investigation shall
12 continue until completed, or until such time as the
13 investigation is terminated by the senate committee on
14 government oversight by majority vote of the members
15 of the committee.