

**REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE
TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
August 10, 2015**

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on August 10, 2015, and makes the following report for approval by the Legislative Council:

Guidelines. That the attached guidelines for 2015 and 2016 interim studies be adopted by the Legislative Council.

2015 Studies. That the attached proposal for studies for the 2015 Interim be adopted by the Legislative Council.

Commission on Interstate Cooperation Resolution. That the attached resolution be adopted by the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Michael E. Gronstal
Chairperson

**PROPOSED
GUIDELINES FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES**

**2015-2016 INTERIMS
Submitted August 10, 2015**

ADOPTION OF RULES

Interim study committees must have a majority of the members representing each house voting affirmatively in order to adopt rules.

COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

Persons serving as public members of study committees are eligible to receive actual expenses only, if they are not eligible for expense reimbursement by an organization that they represent. In order for a public member representing an organization to be eligible to receive actual expenses, the organization must submit a letter to the Legislative Council indicating that the public member is not eligible for the reimbursement from the organization. Payment of the expenses is subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Legislative Council.

STAFF WORK FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

After consultation with, as appropriate, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) Director and legislative leadership, a study committee chair may authorize research or legislative drafting work by the LSA for public members of study committees.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES

Public members of study committees may be nominated by designated organizations, subject to Legislative Council approval or subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Legislative Council in consultation with the Minority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Any change in membership numbers and voting status of the members of a legislative interim study body approved by the Legislative Council requires the approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council or legislative leadership.

GENDER BALANCE

Appointment of public members to study committees shall be gender balanced.

APPROVAL OF ACTIONS

A majority vote of a study committee's voting members present is necessary to carry any action; however, recommendations to the Legislative Council or General Assembly must be adopted with the affirmative votes of a majority of the committee's members of each house.

VOTING BY PUBLIC MEMBERS

Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly or the Legislative Council, public members of study committees are nonvoting.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AND MEETINGS OUTSIDE DES MOINES

Any additional meeting or a meeting or public hearing by a legislative committee held outside of Des Moines requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee or legislative leadership.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

When authorization is given for a study committee to hold a public hearing, the committee may hold one hearing as a body or individual members may each hold a public hearing or groups of two or more members may hold public hearings. However, for each authorized public hearing, no members of the study committee may receive compensation for attendance at more than one session.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR SPEAKERS AND CONSULTING WORK

Any expenditure by a study committee for a speaker or presentation or for any other purpose either requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council, or legislative leadership, or requires inclusion of the expenditure in a budget proposed by the study committee and approved by the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council, or legislative leadership. Contractual consulting work for a study committee requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council. Expenditures shall only be made in accordance with legislative expenditure policies and procedures.

SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

For the 2015 Interim, the deadline for completion of interim study committee meetings is November 27, 2015, and for the 2016 Interim, the deadline is December 16, 2016. An interim study committee must meet the deadline or receive an exemption or a revised deadline date from the Legislative Council or legislative leadership.

2015 Legislative Interim Studies

A. Statutory Committees

1. **Legislative Fiscal Committee** (Iowa Code §§2.45(2) and 2.46)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include directing the administration of performance audits and visitations, studying the operation of state government and making recommendations regarding reorganization to the General Assembly, and conducting studies as assigned by the Legislative Council.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

2. **Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee** (Iowa Code §§2.45(5) and 2.48)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include approving annual estimates of the cost of tax expenditures by December 15 each year, and performing a scheduled review of specified tax credits so that each credit is reviewed at least every five years. The fifth scheduled review is in 2015.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

3. **State Government Efficiency Review Committee** (Iowa Code §2.69)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee with five Senate and five House members appointed by legislative leaders at the beginning of a new General Assembly. The committee is required to meet, as directed by the Legislative Council, at least every two years, to review state government organization and efficiency options and receive state government efficiency suggestions offered by the public and public employees. The second report was submitted in 2015 and the third report is due in January 2017.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 1

4. **Public Retirement Systems Committee** (Iowa Code §97D.4)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee that is required to review and evaluate all public retirement systems in place in Iowa, including the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS), the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (Code chapter 411), the Department of Public Safety Peace Officers' Retirement System (PORS), and the Judicial Retirement System. The committee typically meets during the legislative interim of odd-numbered years.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

5. **Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation** (Iowa Code §§28B.1 and 28B.2)

Charge: Carry forward Iowa's participation as a member of the Council of State Governments; encourage and assist the friendly contact between officials and employees of this state and officials and employees of other states, the federal government, and local governments, and encourage cooperation in the adoption of compacts and uniform laws. The Commission is required to be appointed in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Council.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: As approved by Legislative Leadership.

6. **Telecommunications Company Property Tax Review Committee** (2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 123, §36)

Charge: Review the information and recommendations included in a report required to be submitted by the Department of Revenue by August 1, 2015, detailing recommendations for changes to the current system of assessing telecommunications company property and levying property tax against telecommunications services companies.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

B. Other Interim Studies

1. Recycling Policy Study Committee (SR 20 and letter D-3)

Charge: Evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of recycling policies in Iowa, including but not limited to bottle deposits, handling fees, government oversight and involvement, and the incidence of unreturned containers. The committee shall consult with distributors, retailers, customers, recyclers, and other interested stakeholders to obtain their input, and shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2016.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

2. School Finance Inequities Study Committee

Charge: Review current provisions of the school finance formula and consider alternatives for achieving a more equitable application across all public school districts in the state. Aspects of the study shall include transportation funding with a particular emphasis on small and rural school district transportation funding levels, school district property taxation levels, at-risk student funding challenges, and other school finance formula provisions which may result in funding disparities between school districts. Based on stakeholder input from the Department of Education, school districts, education-related organizations and associations, and other interested stakeholders, the committee shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2016.

Members: 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days: 2

3. Gambling Casino Restricted License Study Committee

Charge: Conduct a study regarding licensing of a non-smoking casino in Cedar Rapids, and submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly, by January 1, 2016.

Members: 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days: 1

C. Other Studies-Related Items

The Committee recommends adoption by the Legislative Council of the Resolution establishing the Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

SENATE/HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. ____

BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1 A Resolution relating to the appointment and duties of
2 the Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

3 WHEREAS, an Iowa Commission on Interstate
4 Cooperation (Commission) is required to be appointed in
5 accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Council
6 pursuant to Iowa Code section 28B.1; and

7 WHEREAS, the stated functions of the Commission
8 include, in part, carrying forward Iowa's participation
9 as a member of the Council of State Governments and
10 assisting legislative officials and employees of this
11 state in developing and maintaining friendly contact
12 by correspondence, by conference, and otherwise,
13 with officials and employees of the other states; NOW
14 THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, That
16 the following persons be appointed no later than
17 September 1, 2015, as members of the Iowa Commission
18 on Interstate Cooperation by the following appointing
19 authorities:

20 1. Three members of the Senate to be appointed by
21 the Majority Leader of the Senate, who shall include
22 among such appointees the Second Vice Chair of the
23 Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of
24 State Governments;

25 2. Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the
26 Minority Leader of the Senate;

27 3. Three members of the House of Representatives
28 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives;

2 4. Two members of the House of Representatives to
3 be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
4 Representatives;

5 5. Three administrative officers to be appointed by
6 the Governor; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall be
8 tasked with organizing and hosting the 2017 Midwestern
9 Legislative Conference Annual Meeting to be held in
10 Des Moines, Iowa in July 2017, as well as hosting an
11 Iowa 2017 Reception at the 2016 Midwestern Legislative
12 Conference Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in
13 July 2016; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the
15 Legislative Services Agency, serving as the Secretary
16 of the Commission, shall transmit a copy of this
17 resolution to the Governor, in recognition of the
18 Governor's capacities as an ex officio honorary
19 nonvoting member of the Commission and as the
20 appointing authority for the three administrative
21 officer members of the Commission.