

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FROM: Serge H. Garrison, Director  
Legislative Service Bureau

RE: Approval of Bill Drafting Guide

DATE: November 11, 1982

Chapter 2 of the Code requires the Legislative Council to approve the rules for the style and format for drafting and preparing legislative bills. Normally this approval is given prior to the legislative session starting in each odd-numbered year and I am now seeking that approval. There are some proposed changes in bill drafting style and format being proposed which are noted in the following. In other respects the bill drafting format will remain as it has been during the 1981 and 1982 Sessions.

The first proposed change will be to allow the assignment of tentative Code section and chapter numbers. A section number may be selected from numbers not being used, or a new section may be placed at the end of an existing chapter. If a new section would logically fall between two existing sections, it may be assigned an A number - e.g. insert after 321.6, the number 321.6A. This may mean extensive renumbering by the Code Editor when publishing the Code, which is sometimes difficult and time-consuming, so it should not be done unless it is necessary.

Advantages of this system will be to allow the reader to determine the placement in the Code and determine what definitions and adjoining sections will be applicable to the new section. It will allow the Code Editor to plan the manner in which the Code will be published and expedite the publication in the future. In addition, it will allow referring to the new proposed Code section numbers within the bill and not having to worry about changing cross reference when sections of the bill are renumbered through the amendment process. Whole new chapters can be created and changes in the bill through the amendment process will not affect the cross references to the assigned Code section numbers when new sections are added to the bill or sections of the bill are changed. New sections added to a new chapter through the amendment process might logically require numbers within the new chapter, but could be added at the end and rearranged when the Act is codified. It is possible that the Code Editor when preparing the Code would not use the tentative numbers assigned because of the impact of other Acts, but probably the tentative numbers would be used in a majority of the cases.

It is also being proposed that in drafting amendments which may contain a number of new sections to a bill, artificial bill section numbers be placed in the amendment in order to avoid problems

associated with renumbering of bill sections after all amendments are approved. Thus in a controversial bill containing perhaps ten sections, where there are many amendments being filed and no knowledge as to which ones may be adopted, we might number the proposed new sections to the bill starting with section 100 through 110. By using this method we would not have to worry about the proposed new sections conflicting with the existing sections numbers in the bill. It is a useful tool when many amendments are being filed to a bill, one without reference to another, and some or parts of some are adopted. Once the bill is reprinted or renumbered after final passage, the appropriate numbers can be inserted.

R E P O R T

of the

SERVICE COMMITTEE

November 11, 1982

The Service Committee met on November 11, 1982 and makes the following report to the Legislative Council:

1. That Ms. Kathleen Mabie be employed in the Legislative Fiscal Bureau as a Legislative Fiscal Analyst at Pay Grade 24 and an annual salary of \$17,430.40.

2. That Mr. William J. Hornbostel be employed by the Office of Citizens' Aide as a Legal Analyst at Pay Grade 29 and an annual salary of \$22,089.60.

3. That Ms. Debbie Dahab be employed by the Legislative Service Bureau beginning around December, 1982 and continuing through the legislative session as a temporary bill drafter at Pay Grade 32 and an annual salary of \$24,398.40.

Respectfully submitted,

SPEAKER DELWYN STROMER  
Chairperson