

Estimated Costs for Updating Legislative Computer Programs

A.

1. Cost for updating computer data base and merging the 1973 and 1974 session laws into the 1973 Code to make the data base for the 1975 Code was \$35,000. This provided an updated data base for search purposes but the data base is not accurate for bill drafting purposes.
2. The estimated base cost submitted by Data Retrieval of America of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for merging the 1975 and 1976 session laws into the 1975 Code to make an updated 1977 Code is \$17,680.
3. The complete computer text of the Code as then updated would have to be completely proofread which would cost approximately \$13,000.
4. Corrections to the data base as a result of the proofreading would cost 1½¢ a word.
5. Data control, which can best be described as editing, would be \$11 an hour but perhaps some of this can be done by the state.

Items 1 through 5 could approximate \$50,000. These estimates are considered to be liberal and thus could be high and should be compared to the \$35,000 cost for the last update.

Present cost for printing the Code by linotype method is approximately \$18.00 per page. This does not include preparation, editing, binding, paper, printing, and shipping. Preparation of camera ready copy, which is not the total cost of printing a page, is estimated to cost \$9.86 per page and is thought by some to be high. If the cost could be reduced to \$7.00 a page, savings in this area would be approximately \$27,000 a year. The use of double columns in preparing the Code for offset printing is much more expensive than single column printing and perhaps other modes of printing could be explored such as soft-cover multi-volume copies with single columns, but still producing hard-cover, library copies.

B. Generation of a new index on computer and eventual continuing update may cost as much as \$39,000. This cost includes \$7,500 for a systems study, \$15,000 to generate the index items, \$600 for printing, \$5,000 for generation of a printout, \$5,000 for error corrections based on 30% error factor, \$7,000 for camera ready copy of the index.

The actual cost of the index would involve deducting present index cost to get a net cost. (The index could, once computerized be generated through use of the computerized printing.) Presently index costs for printing only, are \$40 a page for session laws and \$23 a page for the Code. Printing of indexes are usually high because of the form involved.

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C. In any event before the bulk of bill drafting and publication of the Code can be printed through use of computer technology an accurate data base must be developed. Use of proofreaders would be greatly curtailed, allowing for more speed and accuracy. The ability to provide different modes of printing the Code would be available. The use and printing of soft-cover Codes would be possible even though bound hard-cover copies would also be available. Soft-cover copies could be printed more expeditiously in different forms.

Update of text would be done by state in the future. Savings would come in the future through modern printing and editing methods. More flexibility in bidding by printers would also be possible.