

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS COMMITTEE**

August 19, 1999 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 403 - State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Melvin R. Brown, House Chair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Evan L. Olsen
Rep. Raymond W. Short

Members Excused:

Sen. Terry Spencer

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith,
Managing Research Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Audrey Madsen,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and copies of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. **Call to Order** - Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.
2. **Committee Business** - Chair Brown introduced the new Legislative Secretary, Audrey Madsen.

MOTION: Rep. Goodfellow moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 1999 meeting. The motion passed unanimously

3. **Budget Process Restructuring** - Chair Brown encouraged committee members to bring a solution to the issues on this subject discussed at previous meetings. He opened the discussion to committee members.

MOTION: Sen. Blackham distributed an outline of a budget process proposal titled "Budget Process." and moved its adoption. Among other matters, Senator Blackham proposed that: the Legislature hold monthly meetings of the appropriations subcommittees during the interim; the co-chairs of the appropriations subcommittees be compensated to attend four working meetings with the fiscal analyst assigned to the subcommittee; and the Legislature adopt a more comprehensive schedule for preparing the budget during the Legislature's annual general session.

Sen. Blackham said that he believed that this proposal would result in the more effective use and accountability of taxpayers' dollars.

Committee discussion followed.

Rep. Arent expressed her concern that the public and interest groups have only one week to provide their input.

Rep. Brown emphasized the importance of flexibility in achieving the goal of efficiency in the legislative process.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Short moved to continue this discussion at a future meeting. Sen. Blackham suggested that the concept in the original motion still needs some further refinement. Rep. Short withdrew his substitute motion after that clarification.

The original motion passed unanimously.

4. Mini Appropriations Acts - The committee briefly discussed the process and options available to curb the growing trend of the mini appropriations acts.

Mr. John Fellows, Associate General Counsel, explained that it is probably unconstitutional to prohibit someone from filing a bill.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to disallow initially the introduction of a mini appropriation bill but to create a process so everyone has a fair chance at running one if the appropriation committee denies the appropriation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Goodfellow moved that the committee recess in order to meet with the Legislative Compensation Commission. The motion passed with Sen. Blackham, and Rep. Short in opposition.

5. Meeting with Legislative Compensation Commission (LCC) - The Legislative Process Committee joined the Legislative Compensation Commission in order to respond to questions and to receive a briefing on legislative compensation from Ms. Jo Donlin, Policy Associate, from the Denver office of the National Conference of State Legislatures

6. After the recess, the committee reconvened and continued discussion of mini-appropriations acts.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved that the committee request staff to bring back the mini appropriations rule they have drafted for the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Committee Review of Bills - This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Legislative Process Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in room 403, State Capitol.

9. Adjourn

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MOTION: Rep. Arent moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

