

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, April 25, 2000 - 3:00 p.m. - Room 405 - 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. Evan L. Olsen
Rep. Raymond W. Short

Members Absent:

Sen. Terry Spencer
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith,
Research Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney,
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 3:10 p.m.
2. **Committee Business** -

MOTION: Rep. Olsen moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 1999 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Status of Legislative Process Related Legislation** - Mr. Stewart Smith, Research Analyst, distributed a packet of information for the committee to review. He presented an overview on the recommendations of the 1999 Legislative Process Committee along with its recommended legislation for the 2000 General Session. He briefed the committee on the bills affecting the legislature that may relate to subject matter of the Legislative Process Committee. He also reviewed a summary of meetings that took place on April 19, 2000 and reported on the statistical summary of General Sessions from 1994 to the year 2000.

The committee discussed the process of presenting legislation in committee hearings and discussed concerns of not having enough time for the bills to be thoroughly studied by each body during the closing days of the general session.

Sen. Blackham said even if the general session were 60 or 90 days long, it is human nature to pass bills quickly at the end of a session. He noted that critical items are adequately addressed and believes the process is acceptable.

Chair Brown said the legislature is efficient and productive but expressed concern with the 45-day general session. He said there is not enough time for debate and study in committee hearings in both the house and senate and not enough time for legislators to contact constituents

or interested groups to be available for public discussion. He said that unless the session is extended it sometimes excludes the public from their own process.

Rep. Arent also expressed concern with the process and the need for more time for public input and resources.

Rep. Short suggested looking at the process and said it may be time to define the difference between a committee meeting and a public hearing. He suggested, as part of the process, to set some meetings aside to specifically hear from the public and then both entities could be heard.

4. Potential Study Items - Chair Brown explained that four items have been identified in the Master Study Resolution for potential study by the committee. Legislative staff explained why the items had been placed on the Master Study Resolution. The committee discussed whether each item should be studied by the committee and suggested additional items for potential study.

Selected Items from S.J.R. 12, Master Study Resolution

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to not study item, "198. General Session Dates," for the 2000 interim. The motion passed, with Sen. Allen and Rep. Arent voting in opposition to the motion.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to adopt study item, "199. Individual Appropriations Bills," for the 2000 interim. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to adopt study item, "203. Internet Broadcast of Legislative Proceedings," for the 2000 interim. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional items discussed for potential interim study

In-depth Budget Reviews Requested in 1997 - Mr. John Massey, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, distributed a handout, "Performance Based Budgeting." He said if the committee is interested in the performance based budgeting concept, he suggested moving forward with an in-depth budget review which will give the legislature more information in the budgeting process as opposed to the incremental budgeting that is now used.

MOTION: Rep. Blackham moved to study the Division of Wildlife Resources as well as continuation of Performance Based Budgeting, for the 2000 interim. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Arent absent for the vote.

Request From the Executive Appropriations Committee - Sen. Blackham explained that the Executive Appropriations Committee asked for the Legislative Process Committee to study the issue of, "duplication of study topics and research among committees" and report back with its recommendations.

MOTION: Sen. Blackham moved to consider the item, "duplication of study topics and research among committees," and asked staff to present information on the process that currently exists. The committee will come back and discuss the issue and then make a recommendation on how to proceed. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Arent absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to study the sunset review process with the idea that at the next meeting the committee will refine the motion regarding its objectives. The motion passed, with Sen. Blackham voting in opposition to the motion. Rep. Arent was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to review the process more in-depth regarding placing a constitutional note on bills. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Arent absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to place bill summaries drafted with contents on the bill. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Arent absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Allen moved to do follow-up study and refinement of the previous proposal related to additional subcommittee meetings during the interim and the appropriations process during the session. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Arent absent for the vote.

5. Other Items from Committee Members -

6. Next Meeting Date and Time -

MOTION: Rep. Arent moved for the Legislative Process Committee to meet on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Arent moved for the Legislative Process Committee to meet on Thursday, June 22, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjourn-

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

