

**MINUTES OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

Wednesday, November 21, 2001 - 11:00 a.m. - Room 305 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Speaker Al Mansell, Senate Chair  
Speaker Martin R. Stephens, House Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. Ralph Becker

**Members Absent:**

Sen. L. Steven Poulton  
Rep. Kevin S. Garn

**Staff Present:**

Ms. M. Gay Taylor,  
General Counsel  
Ms. Beverlee LeCheminant,  
Legislative Secretary

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

1. **Call to Order** - Speaker Stephens called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.
2. **Approval of the April 3, 2001 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Sen. Dmitrich moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mark Bleazard, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented the FY 2003 budget requests for the Senate, House of Representatives, Office of Legislative Printing, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, the Tax Review Commission, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, and the Constitutional Revision Commission. He reported a total budget request for the staff offices of \$14,896,800.

Sen. Allen asked why NCSL and CSG dues fell so dramatically from FY 2001. Mr. Bleazard responded that prior to 2002, the Senate received the total appropriation and paid the dues annually with the approval of the Speaker and the President, but there was a request in the 2002 budget year that the dues be split proportionately with the Senate and the House and this budget reflects that change.

Rep. Becker asked if legislators will be paid for legislative days during the Olympics. Ms. Taylor responded by saying that the statute requires payment for the calendar days so even if the Legislature is not in session all 45 days, legislators are paid for all of those days.

Rep. Becker asked if there will be a difference in the legislative budget because of the six extra legislative days of interim meetings prior to the 2002 session. Mr. Bleazard said that amount is not included in this budget and will need a one-time appropriation of approximately \$150,000 for the

2002 budget.

Rep. Arent raised a concern about legislators being paid for the days the Legislature is not in session during the Olympics and asked if there is anything in the language that could change that. Ms. Taylor responded that the language is statutory, but there is a possibility that legislation with an immediate effective date could be drafted and passed early in the 2002 General Session that would change the status quo so legislators would only get paid for actual days in the general session.

Rep. Arent said she is accustomed to more budget detail than she received here in the appropriations subcommittees. She asked if an appropriation subcommittee that is responsible for the legislative offices would see more detail in their budget overview. Mr. Massey said the legislative budget is not required to go through a subcommittee, but goes directly to Executive Appropriations Committee. Speaker Stephens suggested that if she would like more information about any part of the budget, to meet with Mark Bleazard and John Massey and they could provide that information for her.

Rep. Becker asked what dedicated credits the Legislature receives in the surcharges. Mr. Bleazard indicated that Legislative Printing does printing primarily for the Legislature, but when its work slows down after its session responsibilities have been completed, the office takes in work from agencies for hire and charges the agencies the costs the office incurs. The office also sells copies of session bills to the public.

**MOTION:** Sen. Allen moved to approve the proposed budget as presented with the inclusion in the budget for the six interim days in January as the Subcommittee's recommendation for the proposed state budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Becker suggested that the subcommittee members receive the budget in advance in future years so they can review it before the meeting.

### **3. Annual Budget Review of:**

**a. Office of the Legislative Auditor General -** Mr. Wayne Welsh thanked the Legislature for the market comparability raise that was given to his office during the last session. He indicated that it has reduced the office's turnover problem from about 30 percent to ten percent and the office has a more stable and productive staff because of it. He also thanked the Legislature for the opportunity to be involved in some fairly significant policymaking decisions, such as funding textbooks, coming up with a better way of providing tourism funding, and looking at adoption subsidies. He noted that the best practices responsibility that was given to the office a couple of years ago has been very beneficial and the office has distributed a booklet on Good Management Practices for Government. The booklet has been helpful in preventing problems that may have occurred in new programs without this information.

**b. Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst** - Mr. Massey expressed appreciation for the help with the salary equity issues in his office and indicated that there is a good environment in the office in terms of its feelings now in relation to other state agencies. He stated that one employee retired this past year and his workload has been reallocated between the other analysts. He noted that Legislative Printing had requirements to upgrade its Docutech 135 machine and there were some issues in terms of the technology on the machine versus what was going to be needed. It was decided to upgrade to a Docutech 6135, which is a significant amount of money. However, State Central Services had more Docutechs than it needed and, consequently, sold one of its machines to Legislative Printing. By doing this, the office saved around \$150,000 dollars and, at the same time, helped that state agency in terms of its service. He indicated that the office will continue to make efforts to provide information to the Legislature and the public in a timely manner.

**c. Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel** - Mr. Christensen said his office budget has no increase over last years with the exception of the transfer of one employee from the House of Representatives to his office. He requested that the appropriation his office receives on the uniform state laws be made as a separate line item rather than being included in the office's budget. Mr. Christensen said his office is grateful for the market comparability adjustment the Legislature gave last year and the office has committed to be more productive as a result of that. Some examples of that commitment are the many hours of overtime the redistricting team worked putting information together for legislators in regard to the redistricting process. He noted that the final redistricting report will be ready in the next few weeks with detailed maps for every district. He reported that the office has started producing a newsletter from the three offices that provides the Legislature quick information on what is happening after every interim committee day. That newsletter is mailed out two days after interim committee meetings. The office has also completed its first two briefing papers: *The Tax Primer* and *Energy Policy Issues and Legislative Options*. Mr. Christensen reported that the office wants to continue to improve its productivity in serving the Legislature.

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent moved to make the uniform state laws appropriation a separate line item budget in the future. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rep. Becker moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Stephens adjourned the meeting at 11:40 p.m.

