

M I N U T E S

Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities

September 26, 1968

Members present were the Chairman, Clyde Hill, and Senators Bennett and Warren.

Staff members present were Fred Carman from the Revisor's office and Ben Barrett from the Research Department.

Conferees attending the afternoon meeting were John Weeks, Revisor of Statutes and Richard Ryan, Acting Director, Research Department.

MORNING SESSION

Publication of Enrolled Bills and
Session Laws

The Committee reviewed a bill draft which provides for the preparation of session laws and enrolled bills in accordance with its recommendations. According to provisions of the draft, enrolled bills would be printed in Roman style type, except that material added to an existing section of law would be printed in italics and material deleted from an existing section would be printed in strike type. Acts in the session laws would be printed in about the same manner as enrolled bills; however, the Secretary of State is authorized to exercise a degree of editorial judgment in preparation of the session laws format.

The bill provides for indexing the session laws publication, inclusion of all acts, joint resolutions, veto messages and all concurrent resolutions except memorials and resolutions which are congratulatory.

Senator Bennett suggested that in preparing enrolled bills and session laws consideration should be given to either underscoring new material added within a section or using different colors of type to distinguish it when such a procedure becomes feasible.

The Committee plans to review another bill draft which will incorporate the foregoing provisions and will also outline

more clearly certain of the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of State, enrolling clerks and the State Printer (K.S.A. Chapter 45, Article 1).

Permanent Committee on Legislative
Facilities

A preliminary draft of a bill to establish permanent standing committees on legislative facilities in each house of the legislature was reviewed. The committees would be authorized to meet throughout the year either jointly or separately.

The Committee agreed that a further revision of the bill draft would be considered at the next meeting. The proposal will contain an authorization for the Joint Committee to hire a permanent secretary. In addition to a number of administrative duties assigned the secretary, he would be responsible for recruiting legislative employees for the session. According to the proposal, a resolution would be adopted in each house at the beginning of each session listing employee positions to be filled and rates of pay. Between sessions, the secretary, subject to approval of the Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities, would be authorized to hire such interim employees as might be needed to complete the work of a session, to provide secretarial services to interim standing committees, and to take care of such pre-session duties as are necessary to prepare for the opening of the legislative session.

The proposal includes a recommendation that the salary of the secretary be fixed by the Joint Committee. Expenditures for supplies, equipment, salaries, etc., will be subject to the limitations of the annual appropriation to the Committee for its operations. The duty of processing legislative purchase vouchers during a session would be assigned to the Legislative Facilities Committee. These vouchers are now being handled by the Joint Claims and Accounts Committee.

The proposed bill will clarify which employees of each house are to be elected officers. The Chief Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeants-at-Arms for each house will probably be the only legislative employees listed as elected officers.

The proposed bill will also include an amendment to K.S.A. 1968 Supp. 46-140 which would reduce the length of time required during a session before a legislative committee can take a final vote on action on a matter studied by an interim committee.

Prefiling of Bills and Resolutions

A bill draft providing for prefiling of bills and resolutions was considered. It was agreed that the proposal should allow for prefiling by committees of the legislature, as well as by

individual members. Prefiling would be prohibited to both individual legislators and committees upon adjournment of the legislature in the even-numbered years when elections are to be held for representative or senate seats. However, bills could be prefiled during such years after certificates of election have been distributed following the November general elections.

The bill includes provisions for printing prefiled bills, assigning them numbers, and making them available to the public for a small fee.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Legislative Staffing

At the last meeting of the Committee, the Acting Director of the Research Department and the Revisor of Statutes were requested to prepare proposals for providing additional staff services to the legislature emphasizing specialization in the major areas of government. (Copies of the proposals are filed in the Committee notebooks.)

The Revisor stated that additional space is an urgent need of his department and must be provided before increased staffing is possible.

Weeks suggested that the "L" shaped hallway in front of his north office could be captured on a temporary basis to provide room for expansion. Perhaps the Xerox machine and certain clerical services could be moved to that area.

Chairman Hill suggested the possibility of enclosing a portion of the north hallway of the fourth floor of the State House for additional space for the Revisor. File cabinets could be stored in that area and proofreaders could work there during the session.

The Committee, on motion by Senator Bennett, recorded its support of the Revisor's proposal for additional space on the third floor and for temporary usage of the north hallway area on the fourth floor. At the request of the Committee the Revisor intends to contact the State Architect concerning this proposal.

A proposed salary schedule for professional staff in the Revisor's office for FY 1970 was presented. Weeks stated that while no specific salaries were shown for additional positions, his proposal was to double the staff. (There are now five attorneys and five legal secretaries in the Revisor's office.) Staff expansion could begin as additional space becomes available. Weeks said a tax expert is the most pressing staff need at the present time.

Weeks reported on progress being made in the area of computer statute printing. He said Hawaii plans to print its statutes by computer next year. Wisconsin is now working on a computer system that can be used in bill drafting, statutory retrieval, and printing of the statute books.

Senator Bennett suggested the Revisor prepare a letter for members of the legislature outlining the areas of specialization of his staff. The letter could be transmitted to members of the legislature, and staffing patterns can be emphasized in pre-session orientation conferences.

→ Mr. Ryan's proposed staffing and salary arrangement for the Research Department included an expansion of the research staff by about 50 percent. The proposal is oriented toward upgrading services to major standing committees and to individual members.

In answer to a question by Senator Bennett, Ryan said that in the fiscal area his proposal did not contemplate adequate staffing to provide comprehensive budget analysis and review. It would merely provide some legislative staff assistance to the Ways and Means Committees. Unless legislative research persons attended budget hearings and were assigned limited areas of concentration in the various functional areas, it would be impossible for them to work independent of the Budget Division. Senator Bennett said that for the future the legislature should aim toward staffing the legislature so it can be totally independent of the executive for information and research data.

Ryan emphasized that additional space is needed if the Research Department staff is increased. He said his proposal places emphasis on retaining experienced persons at the senior level. Also, a degree of flexibility is built in to aid in keeping good employees. General governmental areas are identified in which some specialization would be developed.

Other Matters

The Committee plans to develop a number of its recommendations to the legislature at the next meeting. Also, bill drafts on prefiling, preparation of enrolled bills and session laws, the permanent legislative facilities committee, and certain suggested rules changes will be reviewed.

The next meeting was tentatively set for November 7. However, if possible, an October meeting will be scheduled. The Chairman directed the staff to poll the Committee concerning approval of the most recent roll call equipment contract. If the members agree, the contract will be signed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.