

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

The special meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 12:10 p.m. on February 22, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Jim Morrison, Excused  
Representative Cindy Hermes, Excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor  
Dennis Hodgins, Research  
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Powell directed the committee's attention to **HB 2490 - State officers and employees; compensation; ethics** for discussion and final action.

Chair Powell has a proposal before the committee to amend **HB 2490**. He said it would 1)create a new de minimis rule for food and gifts of \$10 or less which would be indexed for inflation, 2)eliminate the distinction between snacks and meals, 3)provide exemptions for certain events which would be defined, 4)continue the current exemptions for the entire legislature and political party caucuses, 4)bring the executive branch under the same rules as the Legislature, with the exception that each elected executive branch official shall have the right to issue their own policies to make them more stringent and 5)create a new pay commission for the Legislature and executive officers. He also indicated that the new pay commission would meet this year and it's recommendations would take effect January 1, 2002. Chair Powell said the commission shall be made up of nine persons; four from the Legislature to be selected; one each by the President, Speaker and Minority Leaders; the other five to be selected; one by the Governor, one by the attorney General, one by the Secretary of State, one by the State Treasurer and one by the Insurance Commissioner. He added that any legislator or executive officer shall have the right to individually decline any pay increase. (attachment #1)

Representative Alldritt moved to adopt the **substitute bill for HB 2490**. Representative Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Representative Ray moved to have the de minimis amount raised to \$15 for food and gifts. Representative Mayans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Representative Alldritt moved a **conceptual amendment to HB 2490** to have the new pay commission appointed by April 2, 2001, meet and make a recommendation by June 1, 2001 and the recommendation of the pay commission to go into effect July 1, 2001. The motion was seconded by Representative Gilbert. The motion passed.

Representative Findley moved an **amendment to HB 2490** that would have the pay commission be reconstituted at least once every seven years. Representative Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Representative Powers moved that **Sub for HB 2490** be reported favorable for passage. Representative Alldritt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The committee meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is February 28, 2001.



## PROPOSED ETHICS BILL CHANGES

1. Creates a new diminimis rule whereby gifts and meals of \$10 or less are not itemized for reporting purposes. The amount would be indexed to inflation.
2. Eliminates the distinction between snacks and meals.
3. Provides that no itemized report shall be required for the following additional areas:
  - 1) events at which the general public is invited
  - 2) events held for or by a membership organization
  - 3) any event connected with any national non-profit, non-partisan organization established for the purpose of serving, informing and educating state legislatures or elected executive branch officials
  - 4) events at which a bonafide delegation is invited such as "the Johnson County delegation" or the "South Central delegation".
4. The current exemptions for the entire legislature and political party caucuses shall continue as in current law.
5. The executive branch shall be placed under the same rules as the Legislature. However, each elected executive branch official shall have the right to issue their own policies to make them more stringent.
6. Creates a brand new pay commission. The commission shall meet this year and it's recommendations shall take effect January 1, 2002. The commission shall be made up of nine persons; four persons from the Legislature; to be selected one each by the President, Speaker and Minority Leaders, the other five to be selected; one by the Governor, one by the Attorney General, one by the Secretary of State, one by the State Treasurer and one by the Insurance Commissioner. This Legislative Pay Commission's proposals shall be binding and shall review legislative and executive officer pay. Legislators shall have the right to individually decline any increase in pay.