

Legislative Coordinating Commission
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
3:30 p.m.
Room 300 South, State Office Building

PRESENT: Representative Kelliher
Representative Juhnke
Representative M. Murphy
Representative Seifert
Representative Sertich
Senator Metzen
Senator Pogemiller
Senator Senjem
Senator Clark

EXCUSED: Representative Paulsen
Senator Cohen
Senator Hann

Rep. Kelliher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:41 pm. A quorum was present.

Review/Approve Minutes from December 2, 2005

Sen. Metzen moved to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2005, meeting. The motion was adopted.

Review/Approve Resolutions Establishing Subcommittees

Greg Hubinger, Director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC), reviewed the resolution to establish the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, which identifies its duties, membership, staff, and setting its expiration date of January 1, 2009, unless it is renewed by affirmative action of the LCC. Mr. Hubinger stood for questions. Rep. Sertich moved adoption of the resolution establishing the Subcommittee on Employee Relations. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Hubinger reviewed a similar resolution establishing the Subcommittee on Administrative Rules and stood for questions. Sen. Clark moved adoption of the resolution establishing the Subcommittee on Administrative Rules. The motion was adopted.

Review/Approve Vacation Leave Donation Policy

Mr. Hubinger presented the LCC proposed Donated Time policy, which is similar to the House and Senate policies. Sen. Metzen moved approval of the resolution establishing the LCC Policy on Donated Time. The motion was adopted. Mr. Hubinger added that in the fall when the House, Senate and LCC staff discuss changes to the benefit book, they may consider the possibility of a policy that applies across the Legislature so employees can contribute to the accounts of the others when there is a need.

Review Proposed Biennial Budgets of Joint Legislative Agencies and Commissions

Mr. Hubinger provided background information regarding the joint legislative offices, which has approximately 140 employees compared to 220 in the Senate and 250 in the House; and has an annual budget of approximately \$13 million compared to about \$20 million for the Senate and \$28 million for the House, which is roughly 22% of the legislature's budget. (See handout "Joint Legislative Agencies and Legislative Commissions Budget Proposal for FY 2008 and 2009.") Mr.

Hubinger highlighted the proposed increased costs for the LCC General Fund to cover health insurance and the results of the compensation study, which need approval by House and Senate leadership. Mr. Hubinger stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Michele Timmons, Revisor of Statutes, presented the proposed annual budget for her office and provided handouts. Ms. Timmons stood for questions.

Jim Nobles, Legislative Auditor, presented the proposed annual budget for his office and stood for questions.

Robbie LaFleur, Director of the Legislative Reference Library, presented the proposed annual budget for the library and provided handouts. Ms. LaFleur stood for questions.

Larry Martin, Director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, presented the proposed annual budget for his office and stood for questions.

Mr. Hubinger presented the proposed LCC operating budget and stood for questions.

Mr. Hubinger explained the “LCC Other” budget, which covers expenditures where the LCC acts as a fiscal agent on behalf of the Legislature. One of those services is to contract for sign language interpreters for legislative meetings. Mr. Hubinger introduced Cynthia Weitzel, Public Policy Coordinator for the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH).

Ms. Weitzel thanked the members for allowing her time to speak at the meeting. She thanked members who supported the funding to the Commission to support the three-person staff needed to carryout their mission. Ms. Weitzel discussed how their advocacy training has doubled and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Deaf Blind Legislative Day and they had a great turnout. She emphasized the difference interpreting services has made in helping people have their voices heard. Rep. Kelliher thanked Ms. Weitzel for her work and for coming to talk to the Commission.

Mr. Hubinger reported to the Commission members how helpful Ms. Weitzel and the other staff of the Commission have been in working with LCC staff to provide deaf and hard of hearing services at the Legislature.

Mr. Hubinger continued presenting the LCC-Other budget proposal and stood for questions. He continued with the LCC Subcommittee on Employee Relations budget proposal.

Rep. Thomas Huntley provided a handout and reviewed the budget proposal for the Great Lakes Commission. He explained that the Commission is about \$71,000 in arrears in paying their national dues. Rep. Huntley stood for questions.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson provided a handout and reviewed the budget proposal for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, which is also in arrears in paying their national dues. Andy Golfis, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission, also provided information regarding the projects and benefits of what the Commission does. Rep. Johnson and Mr. Golfis stood for questions.

Barry LaGrave, Director of House Public Information, and Steve Senyk, Director of Senate Media Services, provided a handout and presented the budget proposal for legislative TV, which includes

an increase in expenditures to cover the cost of carrying legislative coverage statewide. Mr. LaGrave and Mr. Senyk stood for questions.

Mr. Hubinger presented the budget proposal for the Health Care Access Commission. He explained that when the funds are not used for meetings or purposes of the Commission, the balances are divided in two and given to House Research and Senate Counsel and Research to defray the costs of their staff for doing health care research.

John Velin, Director of the Legislative-Citizens Council on Minnesota Resources, provided a handout and presented the budget proposal. Mr. Velin stood for questions.

Rep. Kelliher discussed the options before the Commission to ratify the budgets proposed or to not take action. Discussion ensued. Consensus was to take action at a later time.

There being no further business before the Commission, Rep. Kelliher adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Chair