

MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

March 7, 1979
8:00 a.m.
Room 132
State Capitol Building
Tape Data: 9:1-1:480-1118
Subject: Work Session

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Menahan. All members were present except Senator Lockrem who was absent. Fiscal Analyst JanDee May and Ed Eaton from the Budget Office were also present.

The meeting was a work session for making decisions on the budgets for the Commissioner of Campaign Practices, Consumer Counsel, Department of Administration: Building Codes, State Tax Appeals Board and Board of Crime Control.

Commissioner of Campaign Practices

Jim VanKoten, Governor's Office, stated that a major difference was in the hiring of an accountant which the Executive and the FA feel will be very beneficial because of not having to use contracted services.

The FA recommended hiring the accountant in April of 1980 and the Executive recommended hiring the accountant 6 months earlier in October of 1979. Mr. VanKoten stated the difference is the matter of when to hire the accountant. The Executive feels by putting the position on early, he could help with the audits.

The FA commented that John Hanson had stated the latest he could put the position on to get the job done would be the last 3 months to get him started on general elections.

The committee discussed the Campaign Practices Program and the FTE and work involved in the program.

In the first year, there is a \$7,500 difference from the agency request of which all but \$700 is for the FA recommending the individual coming on 6 months later than the Executive. In the second year, there is a \$1,400 difference due to benefits and some minor operating differences.

In contracted services, the original request was for \$9,400 for contracting with outside counsel. If the accountant is approved, they will reduce the \$9,400 from operating and put it into the salaries. In contracted services, the only expense is for \$24 for insurance. Supplies and materials, they are requesting \$4,600 the first year and \$3,400 the second year.

The program spent \$2,000 in communications in 1978 and are

requesting \$2,300 and \$2,400. They are requesting \$1,200 the first year and increasing it to \$3,800 the second year. Should they get the accountant, he will go out to the field.

In equipment, they have no requests; however, they would like to purchase a magcard typewriter over the two years rather than rent it.

Senator Thiessen moved to approve the FA recommendation. Those in favor were Senator Thiessen and Chairman Menahan. Representative Wood was opposed. The motion carried.

The committee discussed approving the accountant.

Senator Thiessen retracted his motion.

There was further discussion on the program.

Representative Wood made a substitute motion to approve the program at current level of 4 FTE and to reduce the contracted services by approximately \$6,900 each year which would allow for \$5,000 over the biennium. Senator Thiessen seconded the motion.

Those in favor were Representative Wood, Senator Thiessen and Chairman Menahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Thiessen was excused at this time from the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES
Consumer Counsel

There was discussion on House Bill 294 which would allow for \$338,500 with \$100,000 for a contingency account for 1980 and \$358,800 with a \$100,000 contingency for 1981. The programs original request was \$310,000 for 1980 and \$320,000 for 1981.

The FA commented on the salary raises for the employees. She questioned for 1980 and 1981 \$2,000 to \$3,000 increases for salaries of positions which were vacant.

Tom Crosser, Budget Analyst for the Legislative Branch, responded that at the time of the budget preparation, there were 4 positions filled. He stated that the Counsel has set the pay increases and has stayed within the Governor's 5 1/2% increase for pay raises. The two positions not filled will be contracted out for the services and the salaries will go into contracted services. Mr. Crosser commented that with not filling the positions, the funding will be needed for contracted services.

The Consumer Counsel felt the \$100,000 contingency was necessary because of the 34% increase in the number of rate increases they have experienced each year over the past 6 years. Traditionally, they have handled the increase through budget amendments. If the \$100,000 is not used, it will not be collected.

Representative Hand moved the original request for \$310,270 in 1980 and \$320,090 in 1981.

Those in favor were Representative Hand, Chairman Menahan, Senator Thiessen and Representative Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
Building Codes

Mr. Eaton commented that there are several bills in legislation affecting this program. House Bill 884 states that the Department of Administration will have to inspect all renovations and all construction on insulation. If this passes, it would take \$3,000,000 to carry it out.

Senate Bill 47 would pass most inspections to the cities and counties. If this passed, the workload would be greatly reduced for the state. If not, the program would need additional people.

The Executive recommendation would allow for the program to continue with their present level.

The program is funded totally through earmarked revenue from fees.

Representative Hand moved to approve the FA recommendation with language stipulating that the budget would have to be amended according to the passing or failing of Senate Bill 47.

Those in favor were Representative Hand, Chairman Menahan and Representative Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

State Tax Appeals Board

The Board is funded all through general fund.

The appeals have increased tremendously because of the reappraisal program. Mr. Eaton stated that his supposition would be that in 1980 there will be a high level of appeals; however, in 1981 it will drop off.

Mr. Eaton commented that with the supplemental, they will be spending \$230,000 for this year. He recommends \$230,000 for 1980 and for 1981, he would concur with the FA's reduced recommendation of \$158,000.

The FA stated that her only concern is to get the program back to normal operating in 1981. She feels the FA recommendation of \$158,000 will bring them back to normal.

Representative Hand moved to approve the Executive recommendation for 1980 plus \$30,000 and to approve the FA recommendation of \$158,000 for 1981.

Those in favor were Representative Hand, Chairman Menahan and Representative Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Board of Crime Control

Senator Thiessen rejoined the meeting at this time.

The FA stated the committee needed to take a look at the program and decide if the federal funds would be better spent at the local level or the state level.

Another area the FA felt needed to be addressed was who should have the authority to state what new programs will be started and what programs will be continued.

Mike Lavin, Administrator, responded that each program has to be approved through the State Board of Crime Control. He commented that he would like to have the committee to work with and report to during the interim. Mr. Lavin felt it would be useful to have the leadership, subcommittee chairman, all criminal justice bills, legislation and new programs converted into one committee to have a good handle on what was going on with the criminal justice within the state.

The federal funds are split into Part B for the administrative portion which supports the staff and Part C which is passed on through to state and local governments. What is passed through to the localities is 63% of the funding and 37% is for the administrative purposes.

The FA questioned the utilizing of planning money towards the evaluation process. If the evaluation program was funded with planning money it would free up approximately \$100,000 which could be passed through to the localities.

There were major increases within operating. The Budget Office made a considerable reduction in the operating from what was requested.

For data processing, they spent \$22,000 in 1978 and are anticipating \$44,000 and \$52,000.

The FA applied normal inflation increases to these areas.

Don Crabbe commented that individual grants were paying for part of the data processing. He stated that they were trying to consolidate all the data processing into one function.

Mr. Crabbe stated that part of the conflict within contracted services was an error in the manner in which the payments were being made and reflected in last year's expenses. They would be charged into a different category than expended from.

Mr. Lavin commented that they should be given the opportunity

to implement the reorganization at the level they feel it should be. There was further discussion.

Representative Hand moved to approve the FA recommendation.

The committee discussed the FTE and the voluntary reduction from 43 to 31.8 through reorganization in the program. The FA recommends 22 FTE. They would like to have the 33 FTE.

Mr. Lavin commented that with \$200,000 of general funding per fiscal year, they could receive all the federal money that will be available in the biennium. They are not increasing their request for general fund over last year.

Representative Hand withdrew his motion.

Representative Wood moved to approve the Executive recommendation with 32 FTE. Those in favor were Representative Wood, Representative Hand, Chairman Menahan and Senator Thiessen. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee directed Mr. Lavin in relation to the FTE, to work toward reducing the FTE over the next biennium.

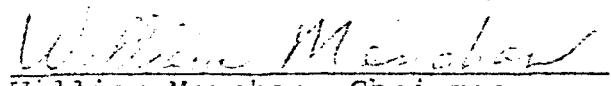
Mr. Lavin stated he would keep the committee informed of the progress of the Crime Control Board projects over the biennium.

Gene Huntington drafted some language for the appropriations bill to deal with the problem for the Crime Control Division to match funds with funds from the federal and private grants. Mr. Huntington asked the committee to consider adding this language to the bill.

Chairman Menahan commented on adding to the language that "buy-ins" could not be used for any other purpose.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.


William Menahan
Chairman

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