

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
January 4, 1983

CHAIRMAN JOE BRAND called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. All members were present except REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS BARDANOUE and REPRESENTATIVE JOE HAMMOND. The secretary called the roll and members told about themselves.

Members discussed arrangements for coffee at committee meetings and Chairman Brand indicated to committee members that, with contributions made to the secretary, the secretary would take care of coffee arrangements. The Chairman also introduced LOIS MENZIES, the Legislative Council Researcher for the committee.

Chairman Brand told of how he would run the meetings of the committee, and would recognize only one person at a time and allow only one person to speak at a time. He pledged that he would conduct the meeting on a bipartisan basis and seek order in the conduct of the meeting. He said that proponents of a bill would be asked to speak first and he would grant opponents the same length of time. He said questions would then come from committee members, and the bill would be closed when no more questions were heard. He said the fate of the bill would be decided in executive sessions which would be open to the public. He said debate would be controlled by the committee through him.

REPRESENTATIVE KATHLEEN McBRIDE questioned the executive sessions. Chairman Brand said that in fairness, the public would be allowed to speak during the hearing process of the bill, but not during the executive session portion. He said, however, that information from the public could be brought into the executive session deliberations through committee members.

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HAND asked if it was not the policy in executive session to encourage the taking of testimony second-hand. Chairman Brand said that Representative Hand was correct.

REPRESENTATIVE WALTER SALES asked if proponents would be allowed to make closing statements, that is if sponsors of measures would be allowed to make closing statements. Chairman Brand said that Representative Sales was correct.

Representative Hand said that he was concerned about the time limit for the hearing of bills. Chairman Brand said he will try to control the meeting but wants to keep the meetings as open as possible.

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL PISTORIA stressed that often the length of time is important in the hearing process. Chairman Brand stated that he would not cut off anyone in the hearing process. Rep. Pistoria said that if a bill would last into the beginning of a floor session it should be cut off. Chairman Brand said he would try not to cut off a particular bill but will keep the hearing going and try to accommodate witnesses from out of town.

Rep. Walter Sales asked about accommodations for voting when committee members are gone. Chairman Brand asked the committee if they wanted to allow proxy votes. REPRESENTATIVE CHET SOLBERG said a member should not be allowed to vote on bills they have not heard in committee.

REPRESENTATIVE JERRY DRISCOLL said members will be sure to be informed about measures, and should be allowed to vote on measures about which they had not heard in the hearings process.

REPRESENTATIVE GLENN MUELLER said that legally one cannot prevent committee members from voting. Chairman Brand said that would be a concern for the full floor, and the answer to the question can differ. Chairman Brand also said the courtesy should be granted to witnesses as we would expect it to be granted to ourselves. Rep. Pistoria stated his preference for allowing proxy votes. Rep. McBride spoke of a "time crunch". She said if we use proxy votes they must be precise as to what the proxy is for.

Chairman Brand said a proxy must be specific or else it's invalid. He said the secretary would take care of proxies. Rep. Solberg stated his disagreement. By way of a voice vote, the committee voted to allow proxy votes. The MOTION was made by REP. HAND and was seconded by Rep. Driscoll.

The committee also decided by consensus to have seconds on motions; decided by consensus to allow the taping of committee meetings, after being assured by the secretary that use of the tapes would be limited to his own.

Chairman Brand noted that to the extent possible, witnesses would be encouraged to fill out witness statement forms, which would include their testimony in writing for the sake of the record.


Chairman Brand noted that under the 72-hour rule, hearings must be noticed 3 days before bills are heard. He also noted that the committee has only 7 days to take action on a bill; a motion to table a bill, or a motion to keep it in committee, is "action".

Legislative Council Researcher, Lois Menzies spoke briefly about amendments to bills. She stated that when amendments come from other committee members, she asks to be allowed to review them first for form and style. She also offered to help committee members with the amendments and in drafting bills.

Rep. Pistoria noted that, for the information of new members, a "DO NOT PASS" recommendation has preference over a "DO PASS" recommendation. He stated that motions on amendments are similar.

Chairman Brand told committee members that the committee would meet the next day, Wednesday, January 5, at 9 a.m.

Chairman Joe Brand declared the meeting adjourned.



REPRESENTATIVE JOE BRAND, Chairman