

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council has delegated to the Legislative Management Committee the Council's authority under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 54-35-11 to make arrangements for legislative sessions. Legislative rules are also reviewed and updated under this authority.

Committee members were Senators Bob Stenehjem (Chairman), Bill Bowman, Randel Christmann, Joel C. Heitkamp, and Aaron Krauter and Representatives Wesley R. Belter, LeRoy G. Bernstein, Merle Boucher, Pam Gulleson, David Monson, and Mike Timm.

The committee submitted this report to the Legislative Council on November 6, 2001. The Council accepted the report for submission to the Legislative Assembly.

SPECIAL SESSION ARRANGEMENTS

The committee reviewed three areas of consideration for the special session--legislative rules, session employees, and miscellaneous matters.

Legislative Rules

The committee reviewed the legislative rules amendments adopted during the 1991 special session, which was called primarily for legislative redistricting purposes. The amendments primarily addressed the introduction of measures, length of time to consider a measure after it is reported from committee, length of time to reconsider a measure, and special committees during the special session. The committee's recommendations are substantively similar to those rules amendments adopted during the 1991 special session.

The committee recommends amendment of Senate and House Rules 401(1), 402(1) and (2), and 403, and Joint Rule 208 to provide that bills and resolutions, other than bills and resolutions introduced by the Legislative Council, must be introduced through the Delayed Bills Committee of the house of introduction. The requirement for approval by the Delayed Bills Committee is intended to limit introduction of measures to those measures of significant importance for consideration during the special session. The special session is primarily to address legislative redistricting. By requiring measures to be introduced through the Delayed Bills Committees, bills and resolutions would be screened to assure consistency with this objective.

The committee recommends amendment of Senate and House Rules 318(4), 337, and 601, and Joint Rule 207 to authorize a measure to be considered on the same day it is reported from committee or placed on the consent calendar. Thus, the normal timeframe for consideration of a measure is shortened from the day after a measure is reported from committee or placed on the consent calendar.

The committee recommends amendment of Senate and House Rules 346 to authorize a measure to be

transmitted to the other house immediately after approval unless a member gives notice of intention to reconsider. If notice is given, the measure cannot be transmitted until the end of that day. Without this amendment, the normal procedure would be to retain the measure until the end of the next legislative day.

The committee recommends amendment of Joint Rule 202 to allow either house to reconsider receding before a conference is called. Without the amendment, reconsideration could not be made until the next legislative day.

The committee recommends amendment of Joint Rule 501(4) to require the return of a fiscal note within one day of the request instead of five days. This recommendation recognizes the shortened timeframes for considering bills and resolutions during the special session.

The committee recommends creation of Joint Rules 303 and 304 to establish a joint legislative redistricting committee and a joint technical corrections committee. The joint legislative redistricting committee would be responsible for all bills and resolutions relating to redistricting. The joint technical corrections committee would be responsible for all other bills and resolutions relating to statutory or constitutional revision.

The committee recommends amendment of Senate and House Rules 504 to eliminate specific meeting days for committees. Although meetings may be called at times and on days as deemed necessary, the specific listing of days that three-day and two-day committees may meet could cause misconceptions if such committees met on other than regularly scheduled days.

Session Employees

The committee reviewed the employee positions filled during the 1991 special session--17 Senate positions and 18 House positions. The committee was especially cognizant of the reduction in employee positions and numbers since 1991 due to computerization of the chambers and the legislative process. The committee recommends that the Senate Employment Committee employ not more than 10 Senate employees and the House Employment Committee employ not more than 12 House employees for the 2001 special session, with the positions left to the discretion of the Employment Committees. The committee also recommends the Employment Committees set guidelines on the days each employee is to work, especially with respect to pre-session and post-session activities. The employees and their positions can be designated by reports of the respective Employment Committees during the special session. The rates of pay for employees during the special session would be the compensation levels established by 2001 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007, unless compensation is changed through a concurrent resolution introduced during the special session.

Miscellaneous Matters

The committee recognizes the nature of a special session for redistricting purposes would be limited in scope. As such, many services or items normally available during a regular session would not be feasible or economical during the special session. During the 2001 regular session, the telephone message, secretarial, and bill and journal room services were provided by private contractors. These services were not provided during the 1991 special session. During the 2001 special session, constituents can contact their legislators through regular channels or by e-mail directly to a legislator's notebook computer, legislators can contact their constituents

through regular channels or by telephone or e-mail, and copies of measures introduced will be available from the counters in front of the bill and journal room and at the information kiosk and from the legislative branch web site. The Legislator's Automated Work Station (LAWS) system will not be available during the special session primarily because the legislators' replacement personal computers have a Windows 2000 operating system and the LAWS system upgrade to work with Windows 2000 will not be finished before mid-2002. Legislative information will be available in printed format and through the legislative branch web site.