

SCOMM

#35:4



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN
RULES COMMITTEE

Alaska State Legislature Senate

May 23, 1983

JAN FAIKS
POUCH V
CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

MEMORANDUM

To: Loren Smith - Legislative Affairs

From: Senator Faiks
Representative Phillips R.E.P.

Subject: Final Payment

This will authorize the final payment to the National Conference of State Legislatures for their study on Legislative Reform. The study had been completed and copies sent to the Alaska State Legislature.

Introduced: 1/25/83
Referred: Rules

BY THE RULES
COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Establishing a Joint Special Committee
6 on Legislative Reform.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the rules, customs, protocol, decorum and statutes governing
9 the work of the Legislature are of great importance to the people of Alaska
10 and the Legislature; and

11 WHEREAS broad public confidence in legislative practices can help
12 assure respect for the rule of law itself; and

13 WHEREAS there has already occurred a significant and widespread public
14 dialogue regarding legislative procedure, reflecting the desire of Alaskans
15 to further encourage confidence in the legislative process and to
16 streamline expenditures and time spent in the legislative process, con-
17 sistent with the need for adequate consideration of public policy issues
18 before the Legislature, with provision for public participation; and

19 WHEREAS, while the Legislature has from time to time modified its
20 procedures, a comprehensive review of legislative procedures and practices
21 with public involvement is needed; and

22 WHEREAS the work of the Legislature takes place in a constantly chang-
23 ing technological and demographic context, which further warrants a review
24 of legislative procedures;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that a Joint Special
Committee on Legislative Reform is established consisting of three members
of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and three members of
the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House to
study and review existing procedures, rules, customs, protocol, decorum,

1 court decisions, statutes, and practices, and to report its findings to the
2 Legislature concerning their adequacy and fitness, and to recommend such
3 changes or modifications, ~~if any there be~~, which in the judgment of the
4 committee will promote legislative responsiveness and accountability to the
5 people and encourage efficiency in the legislative branch of government;
6 and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee, when constituted, be directed to
8 take appropriate steps consistent with existing rules to involve represen-
9 tative elements of the public in its deliberations; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is authorized to meet during the
11 session of the Legislature and is terminated on adjournment of the First
12 Session of the Thirteenth Legislature or upon the submission of its final
13 report, whichever comes first.

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16 to Feb. 1, 1984
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February 2, 1983

To: All Members of Rules Committee

From: Senator Faiks, Rules Committee Chairman 

Re: SCR2, Legislative Reform

The three areas proposed for study by the special committee on Legislative Reform are; Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest legislation, evaluation of the budget process, and a general overview of the Uniform Rules. The committee will be a joint committee composed of three House members and three Senate members.

My office has been in touch with the National Conference of State Legislatures. They have indicated an interest in assisting us with this project, and have given us a proposed budget, which is attached. Note that they will be picking up a portion of the salaries and other expenses of the personnel involved.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is the official membership organization representing legislatures and staff. All 50 states belong and contribute. NCSL maintains the only comprehensive clearing house on legislative rules, procedures and management in the country. They have worked with many states in providing technical information on budgetary, fiscal and management affairs. NCSL has recently conducted technical assistance projects in South Carolina, Oklahoma and the Iowa legislature. Their fiscal affairs program has worked with more than 15 states in the past year providing testimony and background information, as well as on-site assistance.

Only one staffer from Alaska will be assigned to this committee. Clerical and other types of staff support will be provided by the existing staff of the committee members from both the House and the Senate.

An attempt to involve the public as well as present and former legislators will be made via personnel interviews and teleconferences. My office sent letters to several organizations that have been interested in legislative reform in the past, informing them of the public hearing today. Copies of their written responses are attached; Common Sense for Alaska and the Anchorage Women's Club FREE Committee both responded by telephone. Their response was favorable, and each organization will furnish the legislative committee with a contact person as well as any assistance that might be desirable.

Provided NCSL can make a preliminary on-site visit the second week of February, they believe they can complete their research and have recommendations on the Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest and Uniform

Rules by March 1. Budget recommendations would follow about April 1. If it is not possible for NCSL to begin at that time, there will be a delay in this timetable due to a previous commitment of the NCSL staff who would be assigned to this project. (The attached letter, received just this morning, gives an update on the timetable).

Upon completion of the research by NCSL, the Legislative Reform Committee would then introduce legislation based on the committee's response to the recommendations of NCSL.

Public hearings will be held on the proposed legislation. Some additional expense will be incurred for travel and per diem of committee members in order to hold public hearings in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Other communities would be included in the hearings via teleconference.

It is the intention of the Legislative Reform Committee to make recommendations that will enhance the legislative process from the point of view of both the legislature and the public. Some existing policies perhaps need clarification. Other policies are followed in practice but not written down. It may be desirable to institute considerable change in the budget process; at the very least the process needs to be structured so as to be more easily understood by the public. And of course Conflict of Interest legislation must be addressed this session.

Legislative reform is a topic that has been discussed in varying degrees of intensity during the past ten years; rules changes have been instituted that have enhanced the legislative process; it is possible that others have not. Through the combined efforts of present and veteran legislators, professional expertise and the public, a comprehensive review of legislative practices can be made, and a product will emerge that is well thought out and answers the need of both the Legislature and the public.

ALASKA LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES STUDY

NCSL Proposed Budget

	<u>NCSL Contribution</u>	<u>Alaska Contribution</u>
<u>Personnel Costs</u>		
Salaries (Approximately 6 months of staff time.)	\$ 9,050	\$ 3,100
Fringe Benefits	<u>1,358</u>	<u>465</u>
Subtotal	<u>10,408</u>	<u>3,565</u>
<u>Staff Travel</u>		9,300
(Based on four people on-site in Juneau for one week, one person on-site for one week in Fairbanks and Anchorage, one advance trip and one follow-up visit.)		
<u>Other Direct Costs</u>		
Word Processing (40 hrs. @ \$8)		320
Telephone (Includes only long distance charges and three audio conferenced public hearings.)	210 (a)	620
Photocopying		100
Postage		50
Supplies	66 (a)	50
Rent (17% of salaries and fringe benefits.)	<u>1,769 (a)</u>	<u>606</u>
Subtotal	<u>2,045</u>	<u>1,746</u>
<u>Total Direct Costs</u>	<u>12,453</u>	<u>14,611</u>
<u>Indirect Costs</u> (Calculated at 55% of all direct costs.)	6,849	8,036
<u>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</u>	<u>\$19,302</u>	<u>\$22,647</u>

(a) Normal telephone usage, rent and office supplies will be absorbed by the NCSL. These amounts are estimated based on past expenditure patterns.



**National
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of State
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President
William F. Pasannante
Speaker Pro Tem
New York State Assembly

Executive Director
Earl S. Mackey

January 28, 1983

Jan Bomhoff
c/o Senator Jan Faiks
Senate Rules Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Jan:

Since our initial telephone conversations, I have had the opportunity to develop a preliminary work plan for the proposed study of Alaska's legislative procedures, budget process and ethics legislation. I would like to relay to you a more specific timetable for the committee's consideration.

I have assumed that the project would go forward as quickly as possible, and that the study committee would like to complete the first two components--review of the uniform rules and legislative procedures and the review of legislative ethics issues --by early March. A longer time frame would be necessary for the budget study, and I have estimated a deadline of April 15 for that work.

In identifying the tasks in this project and assessing the availability of the necessary NCSL staff, I would say that it is possible, though difficult, to complete the first two components and submit a preliminary report to the study committee by March 15. That assumes the work would begin almost immediately and the first on-site staff work would take place during the week of February 7. If the beginning of this project is delayed by even a few days, it would not be possible for our staff to meet the mid-March deadline because many of our staff are involved in a major meeting at the end of March. As I indicated with you over the phone, the contract and budget details should be finalized, or at least agreed to in as much specificity as possible, before the first on-site visit.

If the project did not get underway until mid-February, the first preliminary report would not be submitted until early April. The problem is not so much in completing the on-site interviews and study, but rather the difficulty is that the key NCSL staff people who would be involved in the project have significant and longstanding obligations for the March meeting.

Jan Bomhoff
January 28, 1983

Page Two

You asked for additional salary information. The budget is based on a staff team described below:

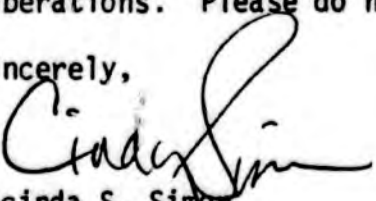
Program Director
(.25 months at approximately \$34,000)
Senior Project Manager
(1.25 months at approximately \$29,600)
Principle Staff Associate
(1 month at approximately \$32,000)
Staff Associate
(1.5 months at approximately \$22,000)
Staff Associate
(1 month at approximately \$23,500)
Secretary II
(1 month at approximately \$12,000)

The position of senior project manager would involve a staff person who is currently on a grant funded activity.

We are still extremely interested in assisting you with this project, however we would like to be realistic and honest about the availability of our staff during the next two months. Given the time frame and the scope of this project, there are practical limitations with which we have to deal. Over a longer time period, there is no question that NCSL can handle this project in a highly credible and professional manner.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and the committee in its deliberations. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lucinda S. Simon
Program Director
Legislative Management

The following organizations and individuals were contacted
regarding the hearing on SCR 2 - Legislative Reform:

American Association of University Women

Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Denise Knapp - GFWC Anchorage Free Committee

Paula Ziegler - League of Women Voters

George Krusz - Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Kent Edwards - Common Sense for Alaska, Inc.

Brenda Knapp-Higgins

Senator John Butrovich

Representative Joe Hayes

Representative Randy Phillips

League of Women Voters of Alaska

file

January 29, 1983

Senator Jan Faiks
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Jan:'

Thank you very much for informing the League of the upcoming hearing on your Senate Concurrent Resolution to establish a joint committee on legislative reform. Regretfully, we will be unable to have a representative in attendance at that particular date and time, but we will definitely be attentive to the progress of this resolution through the legislature.

You are indeed correct in identifying the League of Women Voters as an organization interested in improvement in the legislative process. The main thrust of the League's position in this regard is toward opening up that process to greater citizen participation and understanding and better legislative accountability. Any committee and/or consultant work to that end, therefore, would be of considerable interest to the League, and we hope our involvement would be welcomed.

Anticipating further communication on this subject, thank you again for the hearing notification.

Sincerely,

Paula

Paula Ziegler
President
127 N. Franklin #909
586-9439
586-2660

P.S. I still hold the Legislative Process portfolio on the state League board, so I am the contact person for League in this area.



ALASKA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Regional Office:
101 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 278-3741

February 1, 1983

Senator Jan Faiks
Chairman, Senate Rules
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Jan:

Thank you for your letter concerning SCR 2. The state chamber has no official position concerning legislative reform except on the subject of limiting the length of legislative sessions.

However, we will be supportive of any measure to increase the efficiency of the legislature and will follow closely the progress of SCR 2. Please list my name as the ASCC contact person for the committee.

I will attend the February 2 hearing but ASCC probably will not testify.

We certainly wish you well and if we may be of assistance, please let me know.

Cordially,

George Krusz
President

→ OK, ill testify!