

FINAL
Minutes of Open Session
Legislative Council Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Rooms 402-403 • State Capitol Building

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Senator Ken Sikkema, *Chair*
Speaker Craig DeRoche, *Alternate Chair*
Senator Jason Allen, *Member*
Senator Cameron Brown, *Alternate Member*
Representative Dianne Byrum, *Member*
Senator Robert Emerson, *Member*
Representative Edward Gaffney, *Member*
Senator Beverly Hammerstrom, *Member*
Senator Gilda Jacobs, *Alternate Member*
Representative Andy Meisner, *Alternate Member*
Representative Tom Meyer, *Member*
Senator Bruce Patterson, *Member*
Representative Phillip Pavlov, *Alternate Member*
Senator Mark Schauer, *Member*
Representative Chris Ward, *Member*
Representative Mary Waters, *Member*

Suzanne Miller Allen, Chief of Staff for Senator Sikkema
John Beutler, Secretary of Senate's Office
Susan Cavanagh, LC Administrator's Office
Paul Connors, Legislative Service Bureau
Fred Doherty, Legislative Service Bureau
Brian Dunn, Legislative Service Bureau
Karen East, Legislative Service Bureau
Shelly Edgerton, Senate Majority Policy Office
Nancy Green, Senate Democratic Staff
Fred Hall, Senate Majority Policy Office
Nell Kuhnmuensch
Melissa Malerman, House Republican Policy Office
Suzanne Mendel, Legislative Service Bureau
Chris Powers, Legislative Service Bureau
Elliott Smith, Legislative Service Bureau
John Strand, Legislative Council Administrator
Denis Sullivan, Legislative Service Bureau

Members Excused:

Representative Darwin Booher, *Alternate Member*
Senator Alan Sanborn, *Alternate Member*

Other individuals were present, but did not identify themselves.

ITEM 1. Convening of the Meeting

Senator Sikkema called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the clerk to call the roll. A quorum was present. All absent members were excused.

ITEM 2. Election of Officers

Speaker DeRoche moved, supported by Senator Emerson, to elect Senator Ken Sikkema Chair of the Legislative Council for 2005. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—12:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker DeRoche
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Meyer
	Senator Patterson	Representative Ward
	Senator Schauer	Representative Waters

Nays—0

Senator Sikkema moved, supported by Representative Byrum, to elect Speaker Craig DeRoche Alternate Chair of the Legislative Council for 2005. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—12:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker DeRoche
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Meyer
	Senator Patterson	Representative Ward
	Senator Schauer	Representative Waters

Nays—0

ITEM 3: Approval of the Minutes of the September 29, 2004 Legislative Council Meeting

Senator Patterson moved, supported by Senator Allen, to adopt the minutes of the September 29, 2004 Legislative Council meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—12:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker DeRoche
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Meyer
	Senator Patterson	Representative Ward
	Senator Schauer	Representative Waters

Nays—0

Item 4. Legislative Council Budget – FY 2005-2006

Senator Sikkema called on Mr. John Strand to comment on the Legislative Council budget recommendations for FY 2005-2006. Senator Schauer inquired if the Council Administrator has the authority to transfer funds between line items if additional funds are needed for the health insurance study. Mr. Strand responded that the Council Administrator does not have that authority, but the Council Chair and Alternate Chair can approve transfers if necessary. There was no further discussion. **Representative Meyer moved, supported by Senator Patterson, that the Legislative Council budget as presented be adopted and that if any future changes need to be made that they be approved by the Chair and Alternate Chair and submitted to all Council members. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Yeas—12:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker DeRoche
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Meyer
	Senator Patterson	Representative Ward
	Senator Schauer	Representative Waters

Nays—0

ITEM 5. Health Insurance Study Request for Proposal

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Strand provided some background information and an overview of the evaluation process used for the Health Insurance Study Request for Proposal. General questions regarding the process followed. Senator Sikkema invited Senator Emerson to respond to Senator Patterson's inquiry as to why two members of the evaluation group Mr. Strand referenced in his overview felt all of the proposals submitted were inadequate. Senator Emerson first extended his appreciation that, as he requested last year, Democratic staff was included in the process. He then commented on the concerns he had with the study and explained that he had asked his staff not to make a recommendation as part of the evaluation group since it would be a decision the Council would have to make. **Speaker DeRoche moved, supported by Senator Sikkema, that 1) the Legislative Council Administrator be authorized to negotiate a contract with the Hay Group to conduct a health insurance study, 2) the contract be based upon the RFP, the proposal, and the bid from the Hay Group, and 3) the contract be approved, in writing, by the Chair and Alternate Chair.**

Yeas—8	Senator Sikkema	Speaker DeRoche
	Senator Allen	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Meyer
	Senator Patterson	Representative Ward

Nays—4	Senator Emerson	Representative Byrum
	Senator Schauer	Representative Waters

ITEM 6. Public Participation

The Chair asked for public participation. There was none.

ITEM 7. Adjournment

Having no further business, Senator Sikkema moved, supported by Speaker DeRoche, to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Strand, Secretary

(Minutes approved by Legislative Council on June 21, 2006.)