

Minutes of Open Session Legislative Council Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2003

8:30 a.m.

Senate Appropriations Room
State Capitol Building

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Senator Ken Sikkema, *Chair*
Speaker Rick Johnson, *Alternate Chair*
Senator Jason Allen, *Member*
Representative Diane Byrum, *Member*
Senator Robert Emerson, *Member*
Representative Edward Gaffney, *Member*
Senator Beverly Hammerstrom, *Member*
Representative John Moolenaar, *Member*
Representative Randy Richardville, *Member*
Senator Mark Schauer, *Member*
Representative Mary Waters, *Member*

Suzanne Miller Allen, Chief of Staff for Senator Sikkema
Todd Anderson, Chief of Staff for Speaker Johnson
John Beutler, Secretary of the Senate's Office
John Bollman, Legislative Service Bureau
Alan Canady, House Democratic Staff
Susan Cavanagh, LC Administrator's Office
Marcia Cornell, Legislative Service Bureau
Karen East, Legislative Service Bureau
Shelley Edgerton, Senate Majority Policy Office
Mike Farley, Legislative Service Bureau
Bill Fuller, Legislative Service Bureau
Fred Hall, Senate Majority Policy Office
Traci Kanillopoulos, Legislative Service Bureau
Jerry Lawler, Legislative Council Facilities Agency
Suzanne Mendel, Legislative Service Bureau
Chris Powers, Legislative Service Bureau
Robin Risko, House Fiscal Agency
Elliott Smith, Legislative Service Bureau
John G. Strand, Legislative Council Administrator
Denis Sullivan, Legislative Service Bureau

Members Excused:

Senator Cameron Brown, *Alternate Member*
Senator Gilda Jacobs, *Alternate Member*
Representative Jack Minore, *Alternate Member*
Senator Bruce Patterson, *Member*
Representative David Robertson, *Alternate Member*
Senator Alan Sanborn, *Alternate Member*
Representative Fulton Sheen, *Alternate Member*

Other individuals were present but did not identify themselves.

ITEM 1. Convening of the Meeting

Speaker Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked the clerk to call the roll. A quorum was present. All absent members were excused.

ITEM 2. Election of Officers

Senator Hammerstrom moved, supported by Representative Richardville, to elect Senator Ken Sikkema Chair of the Legislative Council for 2003. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—9:
Senator Sikkema
Senator Allen
Senator Emerson
Senator Hammerstrom

Speaker Johnson
Representative Byrum
Representative Gaffney
Representative Moolenaar
Representative Richardville

Nays—0

Representative Byrum moved, supported by Representative Moolenaar, to elect Speaker Rick Johnson Alternate Chair of the Legislative Council for 2003. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—9:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker Johnson
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Moolenaar
		Representative Richardville

Nays—0

ITEM 3: Approval of the Minutes of the March 5, 2002 Legislative Council Meeting

Speaker Johnson moved, supported by Senator Allen, to adopt the minutes of the March 5, 2002 Legislative Council meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—10:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker Johnson
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Moolenaar
	Senator Schauer	Representative Richardville

Nays—0

ITEM 4. Reappointment of Judge William C. Whitbeck to the Michigan Law Revision Commission

Senator Emerson moved, supported by Representative Richardville, to reappoint Judge William C. Whitbeck to the Michigan Law Revision Commission. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—10:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker Johnson
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Moolenaar
	Senator Schauer	Representative Richardville

Nays—0

ITEM 5. Personnel Report

A personnel report listing new employees of the Legislative Council agencies was presented to the Council members. Legislative Council Administrator John Strand pointed out that there has been a substantial reduction in personnel over the last few years, but every effort is being made to maintain the same level of service to the Legislature especially in the area of legal drafting. There was no further discussion. Senator Sikkema acknowledged receipt of the report.

ITEM 6. Print Shop Union Contract Negotiations

Mr. Strand explained that negotiations for new contracts with the three unions who represent the staff of the Legislative Service Bureau's Printing Division are currently in progress. Permission is needed to allow the Chair and Alternate Chair of the Council to ratify new contracts with the unions. Senator Emerson requested that

Legislative Council members be notified when the contracts are ratified. **Senator Allen moved, supported by Speaker Johnson, to allow the Chair and Alternate Chair of the Council to ratify new contracts with the Print Shop unions and that all Council members are to be notified when the contracts are ratified. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Yeas—11:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker Johnson
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Moolenaar
	Senator Schauer	Representative Richardville
		Representative Waters

Nays—0

Item 7. Legislative Council Rule Changes

Rules dealing with the appointment of a temporary Chair and Alternate Chair and the deletion of references to certain commissions and agencies in the Legislative Council rules were presented. Mr. Strand provided an explanation of the proposed rules. **Senator Schauer moved, seconded by Representative Richardville, that the following amendment regarding the appointment of a temporary Chair and Alternate Chair be adopted:**

Part II, Chapter 1, add the following language to item 2:
Prior to the first Council meeting of each odd-numbered year, the Senate Majority Leader may designate any Senator as temporary Chair. If such designation is made, the Speaker of the House will designate any Representative as temporary Alternate Chair. Prior to the first Council meeting of each even-numbered year, the Speaker of the House may designate any Representative as temporary Chair. If such designation is made, the Senate Majority Leader will designate any Senator a temporary Alternate Chair. All such temporary appointments will expire on the date of the first Council meeting for that year.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Yeas—11:	Senator Sikkema	Speaker Johnson
	Senator Allen	Representative Byrum
	Senator Emerson	Representative Gaffney
	Senator Hammerstrom	Representative Moolenaar
	Senator Schauer	Representative Richardville
		Representative Waters

Nays—0

The proposed deletion of references to various Council commissions and agencies in the Legislative Council rules was discussed. Because the Office of the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman was created by statute and only their funding has been eliminated, Senator Emerson requested that any rules or references to the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman be retained. **Senator Allen moved, supported by Speaker Johnson, to delete any references in the Legislative Council Rules to the Trial Court Assessment Commission, the State Court Information Management Commission, the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Library and Historical Center, and the Michigan Sentencing Commission. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Yeas—11: **Senator Sikkema**
 Senator Allen
 Senator Emerson
 Senator Hammerstrom
 Senator Schauer

Speaker Johnson
Representative Byrum
Representative Gaffney
Representative Moolenaar
Representative Richardville
Representative Waters

Nays—0

Item 8. Legislative Council Budget

Senator Sikkema called on Mr. Strand to briefly comment on the Legislative Council budget recommendations for FY 2003/2004. Senator Schauer inquired about the increase to the State Capitol Building Tour Guides line and Mr. Strand explained that the increase is actually a shift in funds and is due to document room responsibilities and personnel being transferred from the Legislative Service Bureau to the Capitol Tour Guides. In response to questions from Senator Allen, Mr. Strand clarified what types of services are provided out of the LSB Automated Data Processing line and reported on the progress of the e-Law project. Speaker Johnson pointed out that we have one of the most toured Capitols in the nation and he expressed his appreciation to the staff responsible for handling all the visitors to the State Capitol. Representative Byrum shared her concern with the Legislative Service Bureau's Legal Drafting Division in that it is taking a considerable amount of time to get bill requests returned. She noted that this is a concern of the Legislature and asked that her remarks be recorded in the minutes. She added that if there are a large number of bill requests that never get introduced then perhaps leadership from both parties should have more oversight so that legislators can get substantive policy issue bluebacks in their possession sooner. Mr. Strand reiterated the efforts being made to keep resources in the legal drafting area. **Senator Hammerstrom moved, supported by Representative Moolenaar, that the budget as presented be adopted. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Yeas—10: **Senator Sikkema**
 Senator Allen
 Senator Emerson
 Senator Hammerstrom
 Senator Schauer

Speaker Johnson
Representative Byrum
Representative Gaffney
Representative Moolenaar
Representative Waters

Nays—0

ITEM 9. Public Participation

The Chair asked for public participation. There was none.

ITEM 10. Adjournment

Having no further business, Senator Sikkema moved, supported by Speaker Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Strand, Secretary

(Approved by Legislative Council, September 29, 2004)