

Reported Recommending .....  
Ind. Postponed .....  
Passed House .....  
Failed to Pass House .....  
Passed Senate .....  
Failed to Pass Senate .....

House File 244

February 11, 1947.  
Departmental Affairs.

By ANDERSON, BROWN of Mahaska,  
SMITH of Des Moines, PUTNEY,  
NORLAND, WALTER of Pottawat-  
tamie, T R O E G E R, WILLIAMS,  
REED, VAN EATON, SLOANE,  
HUSTON and LUNDY (Bekman).

## A. BILL FOR

An Act to create an Iowa Legislative Council, describing its membership, defining its duties and powers and providing for an appropriation to carry out the duties of said council.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. There is hereby created a legislative council  
2 consisting of six (6) senators and nine (9) representatives to  
3 be appointed by the president of the senate and speaker of the  
4 house of representatives, respectively, before the close of  
5 each regular session. The president of the senate shall be ex-  
6 officio member and chairman, and the speaker of the house shall  
7 be ex-officio member and vice-chairman. Membership on the  
8 council shall include representation from the committees of ways  
9 and means, judiciary, and appropriations, of each house.  
10 The chairman and vice-chairman shall make new appointments  
11 from the two (2) houses, respectively, to fill vacancies in the  
12 representation. A vacancy in the chairmanship shall be filled  
13 by appointment by the senate representation on the council and

14 a vacancy in the vice-chairmanship shall be filled by appointment  
15 by the house representation.

1 Sec. 2. The duties and functions of the legislative  
2 council are to conduct studies of legislative matters, questions  
3 of public policy, issues of state-wide public interest, matters  
4 relating to the general welfare of the state, and questions  
5 relating to the state government and its sub-divisions.

6 It may study and examine questions of simplification and  
7 consolidations in state and local government, elimination of  
8 unnecessary activities and duplication, the coordination of  
9 departmental activities, the effectiveness of administrative  
10 methods and proposals for increasing efficiency and effecting  
11 economies.

12 It may receive messages, recommendations and proposals  
13 from the governor on such matters as he may submit to the  
14 council for study.

15 The council shall collect information, conduct studies  
16 and prepare findings or reports on all subjects and questions  
17 submitted to it by the General Assembly and may conduct studies,  
18 prepare findings or reports on such other subjects within its  
19 functions as the council may determine.

1 Sec. 3. The State Law Librarian shall act as its  
2 secretary and research director. The council may employ such  
3 personnel and research agencies as it may deem necessary to  
4 perform its duties and functions.

1 Sec. 4. The council may adopt rules relating to its

2 meetings and the performance of its duties. It may prepare  
3 progress reports for the members of the legislature and keep  
4 said members informed of studies being made by the council,  
5 actions taken thereon, and the progress made in relation thereto.  
6 Any member of the legislature shall have the right to attend  
7 any session of the council and present his views on any  
8 subject which the council may be considering.

1 Sec. 5. The reports and recommendations of the council  
2 shall be completed and made public prior to each regular  
3 session of the legislature at which such recommendations are  
4 to be submitted. A copy of such reports shall be mailed to  
5 the members of the General Assembly and each elective state  
6 officer.

1 Sec. 6. All officers, boards, commissions or departments  
2 of state government shall make such studies and provide such  
3 information to the council as it may request in performing its  
4 duties.

1 Sec. 7. The council may meet at such times and places  
2 as it may deem necessary to perform its duties.

1 Sec. 8. Members of the council, the chairman and vice-  
2 chairman thereof shall be compensated for the time spent in  
3 attendance at sessions of the council or committee assignments  
4 at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day and actual expenses  
5 incurred while in attendance at such meetings.

1 Sec. 9. There is hereby appropriated from the General  
2 Fund of the State the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00)

3 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of  
4 carrying out the provisions of this act, to be disbursed on  
5 warrants drawn by the comptroller against such fund on  
6 requisitions signed by the chairman or vice-chairman, if acting  
7 chairman, and secretary of the council.

1 Sec. 10. This act shall be applicable to the Fifty-  
2 Second General Assembly and each succeeding general assembly.  
3 In the event that this act does not become effective until  
4 after adjournment sine-die of the Fifty-Second General Assembly,  
5 then the appointment provided herein shall be made within thirty  
6 (30) days after the effective date.

1 Sec. 11. This act being deemed of immediate importance  
2 shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage  
3 and publication in the Mount Pleasant News, a newspaper  
4 published at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and the Ottumwa Daily Courier  
5 a newspaper published at Ottumwa, Iowa.

#### EXPLANATION OF H. F. 244

The object of this bill is to create a Legislative Research Council to do research work on any question of government affecting Iowa; to gather this material in an impartial manner and make it available to members of the legislature; to determine and direct, through its committee and research department, the study and research necessary for proper consideration of all proposals submitted to it; to furnish progress reports to all members of the General Assembly so that they may be informed concerning the work of the Research Council; to eventually take the place and do the work of the various committees that are usually set up by the General Assembly to gather information on special questions between sessions, such as School Code Commissions, Mental Hospital Survey Committees, Tax Study Group, Liquor Control Group, Commission to Study Iowa Schools of Correction, Pre-Legislative Committee and many other questions that require special study and research.

If the Legislative Research Council is to function properly, it must have an appropriation large enough to permit the Council to employ a good research director.