

REPORT OF THE
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

Submitted to the Members of the
Second Session of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly
Meeting in the Year 1972

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
STANDING COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

Final Report

At its July 26 meeting, the Legislative Council approved a recommendation that the Transportation Subcommittee of the Standing Committees on Appropriations be urged to meet with Commissioner Michael Sellers of the Department of Public Safety to discuss the new departmental policies relative to per diem allowances, use of state motor vehicles, and the repeal of the policy of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol relative to promotions. The Transportation Subcommittee met on September 21, 1971. The members of the Subcommittee are:

Senator Wayne D. Keith
Senator Clifton C. Lamborn
Senator John C. Rhodes
Senator John M. Walsh
Senator Eugene M. Hill
Representative Dewey E. Goode
Representative Howard A. Hamilton
Representative Norman Jesse
Representative Lloyd F. Schmeiser
Representative Richard W. Welden

The Subcommittee was interested in the progress of implementing a data processing system for the licensing and accounting functions of the Iowa Reciprocity Board and for which \$50,000 was appropriated by the Sixty-fourth General Assembly, First Session. Commissioner Sellers informed the Subcommittee that the programming should be completed in time to process all applications and licenses to be issued for the year beginning January 1, 1972.

The Subcommittee then reviewed the new departmental policies on the use of state vehicles, per diem allowances, and promotions.

On the subject of vehicles, Commissioner Sellers indicated that the previous policy was that all members of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol were provided a fully-equipped pursuit vehicle. This policy was reviewed and revised because of budget limitations and the fact that fleet prices on acquisitions of new motor vehicles are no longer available. The new policy provides that all members of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol engaged in the patrolling of highways will receive fully-equipped pursuit vehicles. The headquarters staff will have three fully-equipped pursuit vehicles assigned to headquarters for use when necessary. The drivers license examiners and hearing officers will not be assigned fully-equipped pursuit vehicles, but will be provided with less expensive vehicles which are radio-equipped.

On the subject of per diem, Commissioner Sellers noted that the old policy was that every member of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol received a per diem of \$3.75 for meals. He indicated that the present law specifically prohibits the payment of per diem in that section 80.8 of the Code provides that "While on active duty each patrolman shall also receive a flat daily sum as fixed by the commissioner with the approval of the governor for meals while away from the office to which he has been assigned and within his district." The new policy is that all personnel not assigned to headquarters shall receive a per diem of \$3.75. All headquarters personnel shall receive a maintenance allowance of a like amount. The difference between a per diem and a maintenance allowance is that for the Department of Public Safety the per diem is not subject to income tax.

Commissioner Sellers stated that at the time the old promotion policy was rescinded, no promotions were pending. He indicated that the new promotion policy will emphasize merit and seniority as the basis for promotion. He also emphasized that under the new policy, all members of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol will be informed of all forthcoming promotions and each member will be aware of the method used for determining promotions.

Commissioner Sellers also noted that the Department of Public Safety has proceeded with implementing a program of utilizing civilian drivers license examiners. He indicated that the requirements for civilian drivers license examiners have been established by the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol and the pay scales were established by the Merit Employment Department.

The Transportation Subcommittee of the Standing Committees on Appropriations is not making any legislative recommendations.