

INTERIM COMMITTEE MEASURES - SPONSORSHIP BY INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATORS

During the 1993-94 interim, the Legislative Management Committee discussed the desirability of having individual legislators have their names appear as sponsors of Legislative Council interim committee bills and resolutions.

Among the reasons for placing the names of members of interim committees on study committee bills and resolutions was the argument that names of individual legislators would increase the level of support by those legislators for interim committee bills and resolutions. Other advantages noted in the minutes are that names of individual legislators would bring more attention to interim committee bills during sessions and committee clerks would have names of legislators who served on the interim committee to notify of standing committee hearings.

Those who were not in favor of including the names of individual legislators on interim committee bills said the reason names of legislators were removed following the 1975 legislative session was because the bills were becoming identified with the individual legislators rather than with the Legislative Council. Individual legislators became the focus of the merits of a bill. It was also noted that there are problems when legislators who served on an interim committee are no longer members of the Legislative Assembly when the interim committee bills are considered.

The Legislative Management Committee adopted a policy in December 1993 that interim committee bills include the names of up to six members of the interim committee, that names were to be selected by the chairman of the committee upon acceptance of the members listed, and that the members listed be determined considering both political parties and both houses.

At the final meeting of the 1993-94 interim, the Legislative Management Committee again discussed this policy. One member who was the chairman of an interim committee said this policy had caused more work than it was worth and that there had been a number of negative comments by members of the committee of which that legislator was chairman. Another member of the Legislative Management Committee said the chairman and vice chairman of an interim committee should be responsible to see that

the bills coming out of those individuals' interim committee are presented to the standing committee. Another member of the committee said if interim committee bills do not have support, that would indicate that the interim committee should not have recommended the bill.

The 1995-96 Legislative Management Committee again considered the policy of having the names of study committee members on Legislative Council interim committee measures. Discussion reflected in the minutes indicates that one member believed the policy provided more accountability and helped to identify individuals responsible for Legislative Council recommendations. It was also noted that some bills were identified as partisan measures because the only sponsors identified were members of one political party. It was noted that the failure rate for bills that had sponsors from only one political party was higher than for bills that had bipartisan sponsorship. The Legislative Management Committee approved a motion that the policy of including individual legislators on Legislative Council recommended bills and resolutions be continued for the 1997 session. The Legislative Management Committee motion made it clear it was not mandatory that interim committee bills and resolutions include the names of legislators on them. The motion further indicated that interim chairmen should be encouraged to identify up to six members of their committees on a bipartisan basis.

The following table reflects the interim committee bills and resolutions by category of sponsorship by members of interim committees for the 1995 and 1997 legislative sessions. The numbers in parentheses reflect the percentage of passage for each category.

	1995	1997
No names of committee members	10 (50%)	36 (78%)
Bipartisan sponsorship	84 (67%)	36 (78%)
Majority sponsorship only	4 (50%)	10 (70%)
Minority sponsorship only	21 (29%)	2 (50%)
Totals	119 (58%)	84 (76%)