

LEGISLATIVE BILL 898

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1992

Introduced by Warner, 25

AN ACT relating to the Legislature; to amend sections 50-401.01, 50-402, 50-412, and 50-418, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to change the manner of electing members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council; to change and provide provisions relating to the appointment, supervision, qualifications, and salaries of support staff; to eliminate a provision on the hiring and confirmation of employees; and to repeal the original sections, and also section 50-403, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 50-401.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

50-401.01. (1) The Legislative Council shall have an executive board, to be known as the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, which shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and six members of the Legislature, to be chosen by the Legislature at the commencement of each regular session of the Legislature when the speaker is chosen, and the Speaker of the Legislature. The Legislature at large shall elect two of its members from legislative districts Nos. 1, 2, 15, 16, 21, 23 to 30, 32, 34, 35, and 46, two from legislative districts Nos. 3 to 14, 20, 31, 39, and 45, and two from legislative districts Nos. 17 to 19, 22, 33, 36 to 38, 40 to 44, and 47 to 49. The Legislature at large shall elect two of its members from legislative districts Nos. 1, 2, 15, 16, 23 to 30, 32 to 35, and 46; two from legislative districts Nos. 3 to 14, 20, 31, and 45; and two from legislative districts Nos. 17 to 19, 21, 22, 36 to 44, and 47 to 49. The Chairman Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member of the executive board whenever the board is considering fiscal administration.

(2) The executive board shall:

(a) Supervise supervise all services and service personnel of the Legislature and may the board

shall have the authority to employ and fix salaries for such personnel as may be needed to carry out the intent and activities of the Legislature or of the board, unless otherwise directed by the Legislature; and

(b) Appoint persons to fill the positions of Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Director of Research, and Revisor of Statutes. The persons appointed to these positions shall have training and experience as determined by the executive board and shall serve at the pleasure of the executive board. Their respective salaries shall be set by the executive board. The Legislative Council shall occupy and maintain offices in the State Capitol.

Sec. 2. That section 50-402, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

50-402. The Legislative Council shall occupy and maintain offices in the State Capitol.

It shall be the duty of the council;

(1) ~~to~~ To collect information concerning the government and general welfare of the state;

(2) ~~to~~ To examine the effects of previously enacted statutes and recommend amendments thereto;

(3) ~~to~~ To deal with important issues of public policy and questions of statewide interest;

(4) ~~to~~ To prepare a legislative program in the form of bills, or otherwise, as in its opinion the welfare of the state may require, to be presented at the next session of the Legislature;

(5) ~~to~~ To study federal aid to the state and its political subdivisions and advise the Legislature of money, land, or buildings available from the federal government, matching funds necessary, of grants and aids, and what new legislation will be needed;

(6) ~~to~~ To establish and maintain a complete and efficient bill drafting service for the purpose of aiding and assisting members of the Legislature and the executive departments of the state in the preparation of bills, resolutions, and measures, and in drafting the same in proper form, and for this purpose there shall be assigned to the council for such work, rooms in the State Capitol conveniently situated in reference to the legislative chamber;

(7) ~~to~~ To furnish and supervise, through its executive board, all services and service personnel required by the Legislature; (8) ~~to~~ To provide, through the Revisor of Statutes, for the publication of supplements and replacement volumes of the statutes of Nebraska; and

(8) To (9) to set up subcommittees within the executive board to carry out functions such as investigation of any area which it may decide is in the public interest with power to employ such additional personnel as may be needed to carry out the intent and activities of the executive board or the Legislature.

Sec. 3. That section 50-412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

50-412. The Director of Research, to be selected by the council with the approval of the Legislature, shall act as secretary of the council. The council Legislative Council and Legislature shall have access to all library reference facilities maintained by state agencies. The council is authorized to accept and use any funds made available to it through the terms of any cooperative agreement that it may make with any agency whatsoever for the accomplishment of the purposes of sections 50-401 to 50-415.

Sec. 4. That section 50-418, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

50-418. There shall be established within the Legislative Council the office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall fix the salary of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall have training and experience as determined by the executive board. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst, with the approval of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, may employ necessary assistants, whose salaries shall be fixed by the executive board.

The Appropriations Committee shall determine the budgeting and related needs of each agency of state government before and during each session of the Legislature for the use of the Legislature. The committees committee, under the direction of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, shall secure sufficient personnel and funds for the operation of the staff to go physically into each agency of state government and by observation and contact be able to defend and substantiate its recommendation and to accomplish the objective stated in this section.

Sec. 5. That original sections 50-401.01, 50-402, 50-412, and 50-418, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and also section 50-403, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, are repealed.