

CHAPTER 306—S. F. No. 14
[Coded as Sections 3.31 to 3.42]

An act creating a legislative research committee, prescribing its powers and duties, and appropriating money therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

[3.31] Section 1. **Legislative research committee created; selection of members; vacancies.** There is hereby created a legislative committee, which is hereinafter referred to as the "Legislative Research Committee" or the "Committee". The committee shall consist of one senator and one representative from each of the Congressional Districts in the State to be chosen before the close of each regular session of the Legislature to serve until the opening day of the next succeeding regular session of the Legislature. The House members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate members shall be selected at a caucus by a majority of the Senators from the several Congressional Districts. In case of failure to make such selection at the time and manner herein provided for or upon a vacancy occurring after the selection has been made, the vacancy shall be filled by the selection of another member from the Congressional District in which the vacancy occurred, such selection to be made by the remaining Senate or House members of the committee, depending upon which body has the vacancy.

[3.32] Sec. 2. **Policy; powers; restrictions; rights of legislators.** In addition to the other applicable provisions of this act, the committee shall have the power and right to study, consider, accumulate, compile and assemble information on any subject upon which the Legislature may legislate, and upon such subjects as the Legislature may by concurrent or joint resolution authorize or direct, or upon any subject requested by a member of the Legislature; to collect information concerning the government and general welfare of the State and of its political subdivisions; to study and consider important issues of public policy and questions of general interest. The prime motive of the committee shall be to gather information and provide material to be used by the Legislature in its work while in session. The director and his assistants shall neither oppose nor urge legislation. The committee may as it deems advisable call to its assistance other members of the Legislature and it may create committees consisting of its own members, or one or more of its own members and one or more members of the Legislature and delegate by written resolution to such committees such of its powers

and rights as it may deem advisable. Any member of the Legislature shall have the right to attend any meeting of the committee, and may present his views on any subject which the committee may at any particular time be considering. Any member shall have the right to attend and participate in the discussion but shall not have a vote, and upon request any member of the Legislature shall be notified of the dates and places of meetings.

[3.33] **Sec. 3. Assign subjects for research.** The committee may assign the research director and staff to the various standing committees during each regular legislative session for the purpose of explaining the work of the committee and developing additional data with reference thereto. Each department, board, commission, agency, officer, and employee, in the state government, and those in local governments, shall furnish such information and render such assistance to the committee as it may from time to time request.

[3.34] **Sec. 4. Meetings; quorum.** The committee, or any sub-committee appointed by it, may sit at such time and place as it may deem advisable, but the committee shall meet at least once in each quarter year and shall meet at any time upon the call of the chairman or a call signed by nine members of the committee. At any meeting of the committee ten members shall constitute a quorum and a majority of such quorum shall have authority to act in any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the committee.

[3.35] **Sec. 5. Officers; research director; employees; budget.** The committee shall select a chairman and a vice-chairman from its own members and may prescribe its own rules of procedure. It may appoint a secretary who need not be a member, and shall appoint a research director who shall be paid such salary as the committee may determine. The committee may employ such other persons and obtain the assistance of such research agencies as it may deem necessary. The secretary, the director and all employees of the Legislative Research Committee shall be deemed to be legislative employees and shall be in the unclassified service of the state civil service. For the purpose of budgeting, expenses of the Legislative Research Committee shall be deemed to be legislative expense. Expenditures of funds made available to the committee by legislative appropriation shall be made only upon the authority of resolutions duly passed by the committee.

[3.36] **Sec. 6. Minutes of meetings; periodic and biennial reports.** The committee shall keep minutes of its meetings;

which shall be open to the public. It shall make periodic reports to all members of the legislature and shall keep them fully informed of all matters which may come before it, the action taken thereon, and the progress made in relation thereto. At least 30 days prior to each biennial legislative session the committee shall make a written report summarizing its activities, investigations, surveys, and findings of facts to the members of the Legislature, to the governor, and to the public.

[3.37] Sec. 7. **Certain subjects presented 60 days in advance of regular session.** The committee may require that any suggested legislation that is to be presented by any department, board, commission, agency, officer, official or employee of the State, except the Governor, desiring the consideration of the committee, be presented to it at least 60 days in advance of any regular session.

[3.38] Sec. 8. **Expense of members.** The members of the committee and the members of any sub-committee of the committee, shall be compensated for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in attending said meetings and in the performance of their official duties.

[3.39] Sec. 9. **Provisions severable.** If any provision of this act shall be held invalid, the remainder of this act shall not be affected thereby.

[3.40] Sec. 10. **Office.** The commissioner of administration shall assign to the committee suitable quarters in the state capitol building.

[3.41] Sec. 11. **Appropriation.** There is hereby appropriated from the general revenue fund to the committee, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the sum of \$7,000 to be immediately available; the sum of \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1948; the sum of \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949. For the payment of the expenses of the committee it shall draw its warrants upon the state treasurer, which warrants shall be signed by the chairman and at least one other member of the committee, and the state auditor shall then approve them, and the state treasurer shall pay them as and when presented, but not exceeding in the aggregate the amount herein appropriated.

[3.42] Sec. 12. **Termination of act.** The provisions of this act shall terminate as of July 1, 1951.

Approved April 10, 1947.