

Disability Subcommittee Organizational Meeting
July 21, 1981
Alexandria, Minnesota

MINUTES

PRESENT: Representatives Frank Rodriguez, Leo Reding, John Sarna
Senators Earl Renneke, Dennis Frederickson

The Commission chairman, Rep. John Sarna, turned the meeting over to the Subcommittee chairman, Rep. Frank Rodriguez.

Larry Martin, Executive Secretary of the Commission, discussed the charge to the subcommittee, which is:

"The Subcommittee on Disability Benefits shall consider the utilization of disability benefits among local police and salaried firefighters relief associations, determine if there is a high disability benefit utilization problem, examine varying interpretations of the term "disability", recommend positive changes that could be made and determine whether or not any legislative remedies exist for the problem.

If the Subcommittee deems it advisable, it shall submit a report on the problem to the Commission prior to the start of the 1982 Legislative Session. If the Subcommittee deems it advisable, it shall have legislation on the subject prepared for introduction during the 1982 Legislative Session."

The following list of broad areas for subcommittee consideration was presented to the subcommittee, as follows:

1. Consideration of causes of the disability benefit utilization;
2. Consideration of pre-employment screening remedies;
3. Consideration of standardizing and tightening disability benefit qualification standards;
4. Consideration of revisions in medical examiner and Board of Trustee determination procedures;
5. Consideration of relating disability benefit amounts to magnitude of disability;
6. Consideration of disability benefit offsets in the event of subsequent employment or other benefit coverage;
7. Consideration of public employment priorities for re-employment of disabilitants;
8. Consideration of standardization of statistics regarding disabilitants.

The chairman, Rep. Rodriguez, advised that there will be as many subcommittee meetings as necessary; that everyone will be notified. Some of the meetings will be held outside of the Capitol; that he wants to reach out to the areas that want to testify at meetings.

Sen. Renneke discussed his feelings about there being better in-put when there is reaction to a situation rather than reacting to an idea; that there is need for some kind of a proposal to react to.

Chuck Anderson advised the subcommittee that the Police Pension Council would like to address the problem of inadequate disability programs.

Staff will work with the subcommittee chairman re time and place of future meetings.