

F I N A L R E P O R T

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE

January, 1987

The Local Government Reorganization Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council to study and recommend modern alternatives to township government structures, purposes, and functions; and to county government structures, purposes, and functions, for the purpose of increasing local governments' ability to deliver services fairly, efficiently, and uniformly throughout Iowa.

Members serving on the Study Committee were:

Senator Alvin Miller, Co-chairperson
Representative Jack Hatch, Co-chairperson
Senator James Wells
Senator Eugene Fraise
Senator Hurley Hall
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Richard Vande Hoef
Senator Norman Goodwin
Representative Linda Beatty
Representative James Cooper
Representative Gary Sherzan
Representative Don Platt
Representative Bob Renken
Representative Bill Royer
Mr. John Torbert, Executive Director, Iowa State Association
of Counties
Mr. Robert W. Harpster, Director, League of Iowa
Municipalities

The Study Committee was authorized three meetings by the Legislative Council and held meetings on October 8, November 6, and December 2, 1986.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, October 8, 1986, at the State House in Des Moines. The Study Committee received testimony from representatives of the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Municipalities, the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation, the League of Women Voters of Des Moines, and the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association. Mr. Lloyd Clarke, Mr. Mike McIlhon, and Ms. Nadean Hamilton representing the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation, the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association, and the League of Women Voters of Des Moines, respectively, generally agreed that a continuing need exists for enactment of a process by which local governments are

afforded the opportunity to organize themselves efficiently to respond to their unique circumstances. Ms. Hamilton recommended the enactment of county charter legislation and expressed agreement with the 1985 Report of the Iowa Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which maintains that county government in Iowa needs to be modernized in order to keep abreast of societal changes. Mr. McIlhon urged passage of the county charter legislation as a cost-savings mechanism for Polk County in particular.

Ms. Elaine Syzmoniak, Des Moines City Council member and representative of the League of Iowa Municipalities noted that cities are becoming more self-sufficient because of a reduction in intergovernmental funding, greater financial home rule for cities, and enactment of legislation authorizing cities to establish charter governments. In addition, she emphasized that none of the three factors constitutes a state mandate.

Representatives of the Iowa State Association of Counties, including Ms. Mary Richards, Story County Attorney, Ms. Nancy Potter, Jasper County Recorder, Ms. Helen Kopsa, Grundy County Supervisor, and Mr. Warren Richart, Benton County Treasurer, urged the Study Committee to retain the home rule or optional basis for implementing county charter legislation. Individual counties should have the final authority to implement the change in structure best suited for them. Mr. Richart and Ms. Potter noted that a number of efficiencies and improvements to service delivery have been implemented in recent years without any fundamental change to the structure of county government.

Concerning the structure of township government in Iowa, Mr. Bill Anders, Warren County Supervisor, testified that although he is personally acquainted only with Warren County, township government is a very grass-roots type of government which is very economical to the taxpayer. He noted that there are problems such as the availability of liability insurance, but he doubted that the county or another unit of government could accomplish the responsibilities of township government more efficiently or economically.

At its second meeting on Thursday, November 6, 1986, the Study Committee reviewed in detail a proposed bill draft requested by Co-chairperson Hatch to meet a number of the concerns and comments made at the first meeting concerning a county charter bill. The proposed bill draft included the basic provisions of Senate File 184 which authorized a county charter commission for counties having a population of 100,000 or more. The proposed bill also included optional forms of government which are currently available to cities plus a county home rule charter provision which cities may utilize. The bill was amended and staff was instructed to redraft the proposal for review at the Committee's third meeting.

The Study Committee also received testimony from Mr. Paul M. Coates, member of the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension

Service and the Department of Political Science. Mr. Coates addressed matters relating to recent trends in township government, concerns expressed by trustees and clerks, and workshops and seminars sponsored by the Extension Service for township officers. In conclusion, Mr. Coates expressed his belief that township government is meeting the basic criteria for a unit of government to successfully provide governmental services.

At its third and final meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 1986, the Study Committee again reviewed and amended the proposed bill draft authorizing a county to establish a county charter commission and discussed legislative priorities submitted by the League of Iowa Municipalities and the Iowa State Association of Counties. At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Committee made the following recommendations to the Legislative Council:

1. That A Bill For An Act authorizing a county to establish a county charter commission, specifying the powers and duties of the charter commission, and providing for the adoption of a county charter be submitted for consideration by the respective Committees on Local Government.

2. That the two letters submitted by the Iowa State Association of Counties and the League of Iowa Municipalities relating to state mandates and legislative priorities of the two associations be submitted to the respective Committees on Local Government for informational purposes.

A copy of the recommended bill draft and the two letters are attached to and by this reference made a part of this report.

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SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED BILL RECOMMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing a county to establish a county charter
2 commission, specifying the powers and duties of the charter
3 commission, and providing for the adoption of a county
4 charter.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 331.217 DEFINITIONS.

2 As used in this part, unless the context otherwise
3 requires, "commission" means a charter commission created
4 under section 331.218.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 331.218 CHARTER COMMISSION CREATED.

6 The board may by resolution, or shall upon petition of the
7 number of eligible electors of the county equal to at least
8 twenty-five percent of the votes cast in the county at the
9 preceding election for the office of president of the United
10 States or governor, create a county charter commission to
11 study and make recommendations for the functions,
12 organization, and structure of county government subject to
13 the requirements and limitations specified in section 331.224.
14 The recommendations of the commission shall be presented in
15 the form of a proposed county charter which shall be submitted
16 to the qualified electors of the county for approval or
17 disapproval as provided in section 331.223.

18 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 331.219 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.

19 1. Within forty-five days after the adoption of the
20 resolution creating the commission, the membership of the
21 commission shall be appointed as follows:

22 a. Two members shall be appointed by the board from each
23 list of three names submitted by each of the following
24 officers:

- 25 (1) County auditor.
- 26 (2) County recorder.
- 27 (3) County treasurer.
- 28 (4) County sheriff.
- 29 (5) County attorney.

30 b. Ten members shall be appointed by the board. If a city
31 within a county comprises fifty percent or more of the
32 county's population, five members of those appointed by the
33 board shall be eligible electors of that city.

34 2. Only eligible electors of the county not holding a
35 city, county, or state office shall be members of the

1 commission.

2 3. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by
3 appointment in the same manner as the original appointment.
4 The county auditor shall notify the appropriate appointing
5 authority of the vacancy.

6 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 331.220 ORGANIZATION AND EXPENSES.

7 1. Within thirty days after appointment of the members of
8 the commission, the county auditor shall give written notice
9 of the date, time, and location of the first meeting of the
10 commission. At its first meeting the commission shall
11 organize by electing a chairperson, vice chairperson, and
12 other officers as necessary. The commission shall adopt rules
13 governing the conduct of its meetings, subject to chapter 21.

14 2. The members of the commission shall serve without
15 compensation, but they are entitled to travel and other
16 necessary expenses relating to their duties of office, subject
17 to section 79.9.

18 3. The board shall provide office space, rooms, supplies,
19 and equipment for the commission and shall pay the necessary
20 expenses of the commission including compensation for
21 secretarial, clerical, professional, and consultant services
22 not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The commission
23 may employ staff as necessary.

24 4. The expenses of the commission may be paid from the
25 general fund of the county or from any combination of public
26 or private funds available for that purpose.

27 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 331.221 COMMISSION PROCEDURES AND
28 REPORTS.

29 1. Within sixty days after its organization, the
30 commission shall hold at least one public hearing for the
31 purpose of receiving information and materials which will
32 assist in the drafting of a county charter. Notice of the
33 date, time, and place of the hearing shall be given as
34 provided in chapter 21.

35 2. Within nine months after the organization of the

1 commission, the commission shall submit a preliminary report
2 to the board, which report may include the text of the
3 proposed county charter. Sufficient copies of the proposed
4 report shall be made available for distribution to residents
5 of the county who request a copy. The commission shall hold
6 at least one public hearing after submission of the
7 preliminary report to obtain public comment on the report.

8 3. Within fifteen months after its organization, the
9 commission shall submit its final report to the board. The
10 final report shall include the full text and an explanation of
11 the proposed charter, any comments deemed desirable by the
12 commission, a written opinion by the attorney general of this
13 state, stating that the proposed charter is not in conflict
14 with constitutional or statutory law of this state, and any
15 minority reports. The final report shall be made available to
16 the residents of the county upon request. A summary of the
17 final report shall be published in the official newspapers of
18 the county.

19 4. The commission is dissolved on the date of the general
20 election at which the proposed county charter is submitted to
21 the electorate.

22 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 331.222 AMENDMENT TO CHARTER.

23 1. The board, by resolution, may submit a proposed
24 amendment to the county electorate at a general election and
25 the proposed amendment becomes effective if approved by a
26 majority of those voting on the proposal. The board may
27 propose amendments to the charter to the county electorate,
28 but any amendments shall be limited to those subjects
29 contained in the charter as approved by the voters.

30 2. If a petition signed by eligible electors of the county
31 equal in number to at least ten percent of the votes cast in
32 the county for the office of president of the United States or
33 governor at the preceding general election is filed with the
34 board proposing an amendment to the charter, the board shall
35 submit the proposed amendment to the voters at the next

1 general election and the amendment becomes effective if
2 approved by a majority of those voting on the proposal.

3 3. The submission of an amendment to the county electorate
4 is subject to the restrictions of section 331.223, subsection
5 3.

6 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 331.223 REFERENDUM -- EFFECTIVE
7 DATE.

8 1. Upon receipt of a proposed charter or charter
9 amendment, the board shall direct the county commissioner of
10 elections to submit to the qualified electors of the county at
11 the next general election the question of whether the proposed
12 charter or charter amendment shall be adopted. If a majority
13 of the votes cast on the question is in favor of the proposal,
14 the proposal is adopted.

15 2. If a county charter or charter amendment is adopted:

16 a. The proposed charter or charter amendment shall take
17 effect January 1 following the general election at which it is
18 approved unless the charter or charter amendment provides a
19 later effective date. If the adopted charter or charter
20 amendment provides for a special election, the board shall
21 direct the county commissioner of elections to conduct the
22 election.

23 b. The adoption of the charter or charter amendment does
24 not alter any right or liability of the county in effect at
25 the time of the election at which the charter or charter
26 amendment was adopted.

27 c. All departments and agencies shall continue to operate
28 until replaced.

29 d. All ordinances or resolutions in effect remain
30 effective until amended or repealed, unless they are
31 irreconcilable with the charter or charter amendment.

32 e. Upon the effective date of the charter or charter
33 amendment, the county shall adopt the charter by ordinance,
34 and shall file a copy of its charter with the secretary of
35 state, and maintain copies available for public inspection.

1 3. If a county charter is adopted by the electorate, a
2 county charter or charter amendment proposing a change in the
3 number of supervisors under section 331.224, subsection 2,
4 paragraph "a" shall not be submitted to the electorate for
5 three years.

6 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 331.224 COUNTY CHARTER AUTHORIZED -
7 - LIMITATIONS.

8 1. A county may adopt or amend a charter for the
9 government of the county subject to the requirements and
10 limitations provided in this part.

11 2. A county charter shall provide for the exercise of home
12 rule power and authority not inconsistent with state law and
13 may include, but is not limited to, provisions for:

14 a. A board of an odd number of members which may exceed
15 the number of members specified in section 331.201.

16 b. A supervisor representation plan for the county which
17 may differ from the supervisor representation plans specified
18 in sections 331.206, and 331.208 through 331.210.

19 c. The initial compensation for members of the board
20 which, thereafter, shall be determined as provided in section
21 331.907.

22 d. The method of selecting officers of the board and
23 fixing their terms of office which may differ from the
24 requirements of section 331.211.

25 e. Determining meetings of the board and rules of
26 procedure which may differ from the requirements of section
27 331.213 except the meetings shall be scheduled and conducted
28 in compliance with chapter 21.

29 f. The method of combining the duties of elected county
30 officials which may differ from the requirements of section
31 331.323.

32 g. The organization of county departments, agencies, or
33 elected boards of trustees. The organization plan may provide
34 for the abolition or consolidation of a board or commission
35 and the assumption of its powers and duties by the board of

1 supervisors or another officer.

2 h. A form of county government specified under section
3 331.225.

4 3. A county charter or charter amendment shall not contain
5 a provision which relates to the levy or collection of a tax.

6 4. A county charter or charter amendment shall not contain
7 a provision which relates to the method of conducting
8 nominations or elections pursuant to chapters 43 and 49.

9 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 331.225 FORMS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

10 1. The forms of county government are:

11 a. Board of supervisors.

12 b. Executive-board.

13 c. Board-manager form.

14 d. Commission form.

15 2. A county retains its form of government until it adopts
16 a different form as provided in this section.

17 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 331.226 COUNTY EXECUTIVE-BOARD
18 FORM.

19 A county governed by the county executive-board form has a
20 county executive and five board members elected at large,
21 unless by ordinance a county so governed chooses to have a
22 county executive elected at large and an odd number of board
23 members but not less than five, including at least two board
24 members elected at large and one board member elected by and
25 from each district.

26 The county executive is the chief executive officer of the
27 county, shall exercise all administrative duties consistent
28 with state law and county ordinances and shall appoint
29 officers whose offices are provided by ordinance and for whose
30 official conduct the county executive shall be responsible.
31 The county executive is not a member of the board and may not
32 vote as a member of the board.

33 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 331.227 BOARD-MANAGER FORMS.

34 A county governed by the board-manager-at-large form has at
35 least three board members elected at large for staggered four-

1 year terms. At the first meeting of the new term following
2 each regular election, the board shall elect one of the board
3 members to serve as chairperson, and one to serve as vice
4 chairperson. The chairperson is a member of the board and may
5 vote on all matters before the board. As soon as possible
6 after the beginning of the new term following each regular
7 county election, the board shall appoint a manager.

8 A county governed by board-manager-district form has a
9 board composed of an odd number of not less than three members
10 elected from designated districts. At the first meeting of
11 the new term following each regular election, the board shall
12 elect one of the board members to serve as chairperson and one
13 to serve as vice chairperson. The chairperson and other board
14 members serve four-year staggered terms. The chairperson is a
15 member of the board and may vote on all matters before the
16 board. The board shall also appoint a county manager as soon
17 as possible following the beginning of the new term.

18 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 331.328 COUNTY MANAGER POWERS AND
19 DUTIES.

20 When a county adopts a board-manager-at-large or board-
21 manager-district form of government, the powers and duties of
22 the county manager shall be specified by county ordinance.

23 Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 331.229 COMMISSION FORM.

24 A county governed by the commission form has five
25 departments as follows:

- 26 1. Department of health and human services.
- 27 2. Department of public safety.
- 28 3. Department of public works.
- 29 4. Department of parks and property.
- 30 5. Department of administrative services.

31 A county governed by the commission form has a board
32 composed of five board members elected at large. A
33 chairperson of the board shall be elected from among the board
34 members and shall administer the department of administrative
35 services. Each other board member shall be elected to

1 administer one of the other four departments.

2 The chairperson shall supervise the administration of all
3 departments and report to the board all matters requiring its
4 attention. The chairperson is a member of the board and may
5 vote on all matters before the board.

6 Sec. 14. Section 331.101, subsection 1, Code 1987, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 1. "Board" means the board of supervisors or other
9 governing body of a county.

10 Sec. 15. This Act shall be codified as a new part under
11 chapter 331, division II.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill provides that a county may create a county
14 charter commission to prepare a charter to be submitted for
15 approval of the county electorate. The county charter
16 commission may be created by resolution of the board of
17 supervisors or by petition of the county electorate. The bill
18 outlines the membership of the charter commission, its funding
19 and authority. The bill establishes a timetable in which the
20 charter commission is to complete its charter proposal for
21 submission to a referendum.

22 The bill also outlines optional forms of governments which
23 may be selected by a county charter commission.

24 The bill creates new sections 331.217 through 331.329 as a
25 new part of chapter 331, division II.

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**LEAGUE OF IOWA
MUNICIPALITIES**

900 Des Moines Street
Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/265-9961

November 10, 1986

Mr. Thane Johnson
Legislative Service Bureau
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Thane:

As per the discussion at the November 6th meeting of the Local Government Reorganization Committee, enclosed is a list of mandates which we believe contribute to the overall tax burden, and if changed or repealed would be a positive statement of policy at the state level and allow a greater degree of financial and administrative control for cities.

By way of background, most mandates affecting city government fall into two major categories: a) requirements that direct the city to do certain things, and b) constraints that prevent or limit what we can do.

Additionally, within each of these types there are both program and procedural considerations. Program mandates specify what activity or service local units must provide to their citizens often prescribing the quantity and quality of the action to be taken; example, publishing notices at specific type size and space rates.

Procedural mandates prescribe how goals are to be reached, and may regulate the actual administration or delivery of local programs by directing the manner in which resources are organized, accounted for, and reported upon. These procedural mandates are probably most obvious when there are federal funds involved and the state passes through federal regulations as well as applicable state rules. These mandates may range from occupational health and safety standards to paying prevailing wages on construction projects, from ensuring equal opportunity to specifying "merit employment" standards.

Constraining mandates limit the amount and type of local resources or activities available to cities. Mandates that are constraints often deal with the type and amount of revenue local jurisdictions may raise and in some cases even the amount they may spend. For example, limits on general fund levy limits.

It is important to point out that not all state mandates are under fire. Many mandates are seen as necessary by local governments. For example, the state provisions relating to the conduct of elections. The

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more controversial mandates are those affecting areas historically viewed as exclusive local responsibilities: police and fire protection, personnel administration including employment practices, wage and benefits, etc; land use regulation, planning and zoning and their ability to raise revenue, borrow and bond for public projects and services and investment of public funds.

With this background, the following is a list of those issues which are obligations of state law which provide no options for cities and lead to financial and administrative obligations.

1. Heart-lung presumption under Chapter 411. This section of Iowa law presumes that a heart-lung disability is job related. This adds to the medical and disability costs of cities and the taxpayers and provides no alternative to avoid the presumption.
2. The present defined benefit system under Chapter 411 for cities with 8,000 or more population. Unlike IPERS, which is a contributory system with equal participation from employer and employee, this system requires a disproportionate employer contribution. In some cases this accounts for 10% or more of the general fund tax levy in a large city.
3. Mandatory leaves of absence require a city to hold open a position in local government for a period of time that a person is serving in elected office. This is counter productive to any administrative efforts at the local level to reorganize or downsize government.
4. Thirty days reimbursement for military leave.
5. Mandatory ten weeks of training for law enforcement personnel in Des Moines despite the size of the community. Variations in training time and locations could save tax dollars at the local level without compromising the quality or professionalism of the trained officers.
6. Mandatory fees for publication of city documents in Chapter 618. This current law disallows any negotiation with local newspapers for lower amounts or types of inserts.
7. Mandatory solid waste dumping fee which is passed on and added to user charges at the local level when no direct benefit may accrue to one jurisdiction.
8. The mandatory application of a state tax on municipal swimming pools because they are considered an athletic event.
9. Limiting cities to a maximum recovery of \$100 for violation of municipal ordinances. This has not changed for over 20 years.
10. 60% approval rate on bonds rather than a simple majority.
11. \$8.10 per thousand of assessed valuation for general fund purposes in Chapter 384.

November 10, 1986

12. Referendum requirement for local option sales and wheel taxes.
13. Mandatory final binding arbitration.
14. Collateralization requirement for investment of public funds in instruments other than federal securities.
15. Prohibition against limiting the number of liquor licenses or beer permits in Chapter 123.

This list is not based on an exhaustive review of all state statutes but merely a sampling of those areas which give rise to either additional costs, administrative responsibility or obligations.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely



Robert W. Harpster
Executive Director

RWH/mla

cc: Senator Al Miller
Representative Jack Hatch

STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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December 1, 1986

Mr. Thane Johnson
Legislative Service Bureau
Statehouse
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Thane:

As directed at the meeting of the local government reorganization committee on November 6, I am listing a number of mandates with which county government is concerned. I wish to emphasize that we do not consider all mandates to be bad. We have, at times, supported state legislation or administrative rules that contain mandates. Our general concerns about mandates would break into three major categories.

- 1) The budget cycle of the state and counties differ. This often causes problems with new mandates. Our budgets must be certified to the state by March 15. In most cases, the state budget isn't finalized until several months after that. This means we have to guess about state budget decisions in making our budget decisions. If we guess wrong, we're stuck with an unbudgeted cost.
- 2) Mandates distort the budget process. Any mandate becomes an established and thus largely uncontrollable cost. The more mandates we have, the less control we have over our budgets and the less ability we have to structure these budgets to address locally perceived needs.
- 3) Mandates often give us little discretion in terms of approach. There are often two or three good ways of approaching a problem but a mandate usually allows only one alternative.

Our concern about mandates is heightened this year by the shrinking property tax base and by the decision of the federal government to abolish general revenue sharing. On a statewide basis, revenue sharing will represent a loss of revenue of about \$30 million - an amount equivalent to about 9% of what we levy in property taxes annually. In some counties, the loss will represent 12-15% of their income.

Let me address some of the mandates specifically. I will only deal with the "big ticket" items so this will not be an all-inclusive list in any sense of the word.

- 1) Mental health/mental retardation - Almost every dollar of these costs is in the form of a mandate. In the mental retardation area, counties spent almost \$63 million in FY 85 - an increase of 19% from the previous fiscal year. Basically, counties are given the responsibility for "all necessary and legal expenses for the cost of admission or commitment or for the treatment, training, instruction, care, habilitation, support and transportation of patients in a state hospital school for the mentally retarded or in a special unit or any other public or private facility within the state..." The only time these costs aren't paid by the county is when the person has no county of legal settlement, is in a state institution and is thus a state responsibility. About one-third of the \$63 million was spent at Glenwood or Woodward and the remainder was spent in community based treatment.

In the mental health area, our principal cost is the requirement that we pay 80% of the costs for residents at mental health institutions (MHI's). In FY 85, counties spent just under \$54 million. About \$15 million of that was MHI cost. The rest was spent on community mental health centers and county care facilities. This area represents about 20% of our budgets statewide.

- 2) Roads and Transportation - In this area, the primary mandate takes the form of standards - both federal and state. Standards deal with everything such as width of roadway, gradation of shape, design of guardrails, how much weight bridges can hold, etc. One-third of the county road system is farm-to-market-roads. They are the "best" and most expensive roads and bridges in the system. One-third of the farm to market system is part of the federal-aid-secondary (FAS) system. Roads and bridges that are part of the FAS system must meet federal standards. The other two-thirds of the farm to market system has state standards that are modeled after federal standards. There is great concern at the state and federal levels about reducing standards because of concern over the additional liability exposure created. Roads and transportation account for about 30% of county spending.

Other mandates of concern

- Indigent defense - Approximately \$11 million/year. This is scheduled for state assumption under the court reorganization bill.

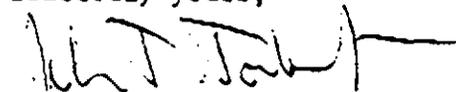
- General relief costs - This includes hospital and medical costs and rent and utility payments for poor persons. Approximate cost - \$10 million/year.
- Jail standards - These standards were put in place in the late '70s by the Department of Human Services (then DSS) and resulted in substantial increase in both capital and operational costs. We also have a concern that our costs are increasing because people are being housed longer in county jails because of the state prison cap and there not being room to move the prisoners into state institutions. Changes in the OWI law are also having a significant impact on jail costs.

Other examples of mandates

- \$2 - \$3 million for the county share of substance abuse treatment costs at the mental health institutions.
- Financial services such as tax assessment, computation, and collection.
- Licensing services for motor vehicles, boats, and snowmobiles.
- Administrative services such as conducting elections and collecting special assessments.
- Elimination of sanitary landfills.
- Mandatory publication of county business documents at state established rates.
- Standards for county care facilities - (in process of adoption).
- Mental health advocates
- Juvenile and hospitalization referees.

As I've indicated, this is not meant to be an all inclusive list but does provide a framework for some of our concerns.

Sincerely yours,



Joan T. Torbert
Executive Director

JTT:iv

86H-Legser