

REPORT OF THE
IOWA INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMISSION
SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

REPORT ON THE INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMISSION

PURPOSE

The Interstate Cooperation Commission was established with the expressed purpose of carrying forward the participation of this state as a member of the council of state governments; encouraging the officials and employees of this state to develop and maintain friendly contact with the officials and employees of the other states and the federal government; and encouraging cooperation between this state and other units of government in the adaption of compacts and uniform laws.

MEMBERSHIP

The Interstate Cooperation Commission as established by chapter twenty-eight B of the Code of Iowa provides for a membership consisting of: five members of the senate to be appointed by the president thereof; five members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house; and three administrative officers to be appointed by the governor.

The governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives are ex officio honorary nonvoting members of the commission. Other members of the 1967-69 Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation include: Senator Vernon H. Kyhl (Chairman), Representative Henry W. Busch (Vice Chairman), Senator Merle W. Hagedorn, Senator Donald W. Murray, Senator Max E. Reno, Senator Howard C. Reppert, Jr., Representative James T. Caffrey, Representative John Camp, Representative Harold G. Fischer, Representative Dale L. Tieden, Marvin R. Selden, Jr., State Comptroller, Mr. James W. Harrington, State Board of Control, and Mr. Melvin H. Wolf, State Board of Regents.

COMMITTEES

The commission may form committees to "confer and formulate proposals concerning effective means to secure intergovernmental

harmony, and may perform other functions for the commission in obedience to its decision."

The following is a list of the 1967-1969 committees and the members of the commission serving on them:

Midwestern Agriculture Committee

Senator Donald W. Murray
Representative Henry W. Busch

Midwestern Tax Committee

Senator Merle W. Hagedorn
Representative John Camp
Marvin R. Selden, Jr.--Alternate

Midwestern Higher Education Committee

Representative James T. Caffrey
Representative Dale L. Tieden
Melvin H. Wolf--Alternate

Midwestern Transportation and Highway Safety Committee

Senator Max E. Reno
Representative Harold O. Fischer

Committee on Suggested State Legislation

Representative Maurice E. Baringer
Senator Howard C. Reppert, Jr.
James W. Harrington

Welfare Study Committee

Representative John Camp
Representative James T. Caffrey

Midwestern Conference Executive Committee

Senator Vernon H. Kyhl

A look at several of the current projects of the commission will give a better understanding of the nature of the projects being conducted on an interstate basis.

A very important study nearing completion is one conducted by the Tax Committee. The Motor Fuel Tax Audit Pilot Study has as

its goal the single audit of interstate motor fuel users to meet the needs of several states. To date nine midwestern states have agreed to participate in the study: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan.

The actual test audits will occur in March, 1969. By that time the private accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst will have completed its state visits, following which the test audit form and schedule will be finalized. The forms will then be submitted to participating state representatives for substantive comment and contact will have been made with the selected carriers to guide them in the transposition of road use tax data from various state tax forms to the test forms. The carriers selected for the test audit are representatives of three separate areas: 1) a passenger hauler; 2) a van line; and 3) a heavy freight hauler. In line with this, Greyhound Bus Lines; Allied Van Lines; and Brady Motorfrate of Des Moines, Iowa were selected.

This project has as its objective the elimination of a multitude of audits of interstate trucking firms by the many states through which such firms may travel. Such audits are a great expense to the trucking firms, cause a substantial amount of inconvenience, and in addition are costly to the individual states. It is hoped that this project will indicate that states may jointly have a national accounting firm provide one audit of a firm for all states at the same time at a minimum cost to each state, and a minimum amount of inconvenience to the trucking firm. Such a procedure will necessarily involve uniform reporting forms and methods by the state involved; which is an objective that has interested Iowa officials for some time.

The Multistate Tax Compact is another project of current concern to the Tax Committee. The basic justification for the Compact is that the states are the most appropriate instruments for the determination of their own tax laws and policies. The Compact deals primarily with those types of taxes paid by business firms, but in addition, all other kinds of state and local tax laws and administration could be covered to some extent by

research and recommendatory provisions of the Compact. The Multi-state Tax Compact is a means by which the states can cooperatively work out any problems which may exist, or which may arise in the future, as a result of business functioning in more than one state. To date, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska have adopted the Compact in the Midwest. The Compact has also been adopted by twelve other states.

Proposed future projects for the Tax Committee include a study of property tax exemptions in the midwest states, including churches, hospitals, schools, eleemosynary institutions, and the whole field of the elderly.

A decision passed down by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare provided an opportunity to dramatize the beneficial results of a unified voice in Washington. It was decided that the use of the "declaration method" would be required by all state agencies as a means of granting welfare financial assistance. The "declaration method" means an organized system by which the agency accepts the statements of the applicant or recipient for assistance as a basis for decisions regarding his eligibility and extent of entitlement. There is a method of continuing review, on a sampling basis, of the accuracy of decisions on eligibility and entitlement. As a result of this declaration the Committee on Public Health and Welfare of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments immediately sent a telegram to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in which was stressed the very important implications for state government. The committee expressed the desire that its member states be given the opportunity to express their collective and individual viewpoints on the proposed regulations. It was therefore requested that implementation of the proposed regulations be postponed until such opportunity had been offered. As a result of strong opposition from a number of states, full implementation of the proposed regulation was delayed.

Possible committee projects under consideration include:

- 1) Investigation of the relationship of the federal

government and the state in the area of welfare and the effect of costs.

2) Moderating the cost of hospital and nursing home care, possibly including an examination of physicians' fees.

3) Examining the possibilities of a pollution compact.

In the field of education the Higher Education Committee has been studying the proposed "Interstate Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel." The agreement is a mechanism by which school professionals who are qualified in one place may be recognized as to those qualifications in another place. A proposed study for the committee is to investigate Federal Aid Programs in the area of education, to find out what federal money and programs are available.

The Committee on Suggested State Legislation formulates proposals on probable state legislation. While generally cast in the form of legislation, they constitute no more than suggestions with respect to the problems posed. Printed in a volume of the same name, the current one includes recommendations for laws in such areas as weapons control, unsolicited merchandise, work release from prison, housing and urban development, and removal of constitutional restrictions on legislative sessions and compensation.

The Midwestern Transportation and Highway Safety Committee has been involved in a number of studies designed to make interstate transportation more safe and uniform. One project upon which much progress is being made, is the development of uniform registration and regulation of custom combiners. The laws of the states through which custom combiners travel and do business in are quite diverse and it is the purpose of this study to promote uniformity and thus aid the farmers of the various states and the custom combiners.

Another project of this committee, which will be getting underway very shortly and results from the Iowa members initiative, is the development of uniform laws relating to the movement of

wide loads on the highways. This is another area where the laws of the states are diverse and cause inconvenience to many persons and do not tend to promote safety on the highways.

In a continuing effort to bring to the people of their respective states a better, more productive, more efficient state government through cooperation; the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments will convene on July 27-30 at Lansing and Mackinac Island, Michigan.