

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
OF THE  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING STUDY COMMITTEE

Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, adopted by the Sixty-third General Assembly, Second Session, directed that all resolutions calling for interim studies by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Service Bureau which were not adopted in both houses be delivered to the President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House for consideration by the Legislative Council. At its May 7, 1970 meeting, the Legislative Council authorized that a study be conducted in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 114. H. C. R. 114 provided for the establishment of a committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the results of metropolitan legislation in other states and of the steps required to permit metropolitan districting in Iowa.

The Legislative Council named the following members of the General Assembly to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Study Committee:

Senator Lucas J. DeKoster, Hudson  
Senator Gene W. Glenn, Ottumwa  
Senator W. R. Rabedeaux, Wilton Junction  
Representative Leonard C. Andersen, Sioux City  
Representative Michael K. Kennedy, New Hampton  
Representative George F. Milligan, Des Moines

The Committee's organizational meeting was held on August 20, 1970, with Representative George F. Milligan serving as temporary chairman. The Committee elected Representative Milligan as permanent Chairman, Senator Lucas J. DeKoster as Vice Chairman, and Diane Devin, Research Analyst, Legislative Service Bureau, as Committee Secretary.

The Committee is concerned with the proliferation of separate governmental units providing services for small numbers of people and the resulting inefficient use of the tax dollar. In order to determine the various alternatives available for providing governmental services on a regional basis, the Committee studied informational materials prepared by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the Committee for Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the National Society of State Legislators, the Public Administration Service, and legislation and practices which have been adopted in other states and Canada.

The Committee invited a number of persons to its September meeting and asked them to comment upon governmental problems existing in metropolitan areas, present governmental structures, and possible changes for more efficient government. Representatives from the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association, the League of Iowa Municipalities, the League of Women Voters, the

Iowa Association of School Boards, the Iowa Development Commission, and representatives from county boards of supervisors, city councils, and school boards presented ideas to the Committee. In addition, the directors of the following regional planning commissions appeared before the Committee:

Central Iowa Regional Planning Commission  
Dubuque County Metropolitan Area Planning  
Commission  
Metropolitan Planning Commission of Black  
Hawk County  
Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning  
Council  
Johnson County Regional Planning Commission

After hearing testimony from the invited persons, the Committee concluded that governmental services can be provided more efficiently on a regional basis and proceeded to discuss various alternatives for such services. The alternatives included expanding the authorization for cooperation under Chapter 28E of the Code, expanding the use of counties for providing services on a county-wide basis, county consolidation, authorizing regional special districts, consolidating the functions of cities and counties, and the establishment of metropolitan service corporations.

Because the Committee believes that governmental units should remain for the present, it recommends the establishment of metropolitan service corporations which will provide the residents of the populous metropolitan areas in the state the means of obtaining essential services on a uniform basis throughout the entire metropolitan area. The Committee has requested the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a bill authorizing the establishment of metropolitan service corporations in any metropolitan area of the state which includes a city of forty-five thousand population or more and the surrounding cities, towns, and unincorporated areas. A metropolitan service corporation may include all of and parts of counties.

The metropolitan service corporation may be authorized to perform the following services:

Sewage disposal  
Water supply  
Planning  
Zoning  
Public transportation  
Solid waste disposal  
Parks and recreation  
Law enforcement  
Fire protection  
Road and street construction and maintenance  
Airports  
Centralized purchasing  
Data Processing

Metropolitan service corporations must be authorized by an affirmative vote approved by a majority of the persons voting on the proposition who reside within the central city and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition who reside in the service area outside the central city. Resolutions calling for an election on the question of establishing a metropolitan service corporation may be passed by the city council of the largest city in the area, by two cities, or by the county board of supervisors of the county in which the largest city is located, or a petition may be transmitted to the county board of supervisors requesting the establishment of a metropolitan service corporation. A hearing on establishment of the metropolitan service corporation is conducted by a hearing board and boundaries of the corporation may be changed after the hearing, but a second hearing must then be held.

An affirmative vote at the election is required for both the establishment of the metropolitan service corporation and for the approval of authorized services. The policymaking body of the metropolitan service corporation is a metropolitan council. Membership on the metropolitan council has not yet been determined by the Metropolitan Planning Study Committee.

Additional authorized services may be added to the initial services of the metropolitan service corporation either by an affirmative vote at an election or by approval of the governing bodies of the cities, towns, and counties located in the service area. Former employees of the special districts, cities, towns, and counties located within the metropolitan service corporation will be given preference in employment by the corporation.

The Committee has agreed that no additional taxes will be authorized to finance any metropolitan service corporation, and the metropolitan service corporation should be authorized to collect assessments, charge fees, issue revenue bonds, and issue general obligation bonds, as well as to utilize the tax money which may be collected by the component governmental entities of the metropolitan service corporation.

The Committee has scheduled its final meeting for November 17, 1970 and will make final determinations regarding the establishment, operation, and methods of financing metropolitan service corporations. A copy of the recommended bill will be transmitted to the Legislative Council following the November 17 meeting.