

UNIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE  
of the  
STANDING COMMITTEES ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report to the Legislative Council  
and the Members of the  
First Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

FINAL REPORT  
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The Legislative Council at its meeting on April 12, 1972 approved a request by Senator Harold Thordsen and Representative Perry Christensen, Chairmen of the Standing Committees on Law Enforcement, that a subcommittee composed of members of the Standing Committees on Law Enforcement be established to study the possibility and feasibility of joint, coordinated, or pooled law enforcement by the political subdivisions of the state. The Subcommittee was authorized three meetings.

Members appointed by Senator Thordsen and Representative Christensen were:

Representative Perry Christensen, Kent, Chairman  
Senator R. Dean Arbuckle, Jefferson  
Senator James F. Schaben, Dunlap  
Senator Harold Thordsen, Davenport  
Representative Donald Doyle, Sioux City  
Representative Kenneth Logemann, Northwood

The Subcommittee met with the following persons:

Mr. Gerald Allen, Sheriff of Cerro Gordo County, President of the Iowa State Sheriff's Association  
Mr. John Wright, Sheriff of Dallas County  
Mr. Marvin Bruhn, Sheriff of Clinton County  
Assistant Police Chief Jerry Clift, Cedar Rapids Police Department, President of Iowa Police Chief's Association  
Mr. John Callaghan, Director of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy  
Mr. H. J. Fries, Chief of Police of the City of Clinton

The Subcommittee received information concerning the numbers of law enforcement personnel in each county and each city and town in the state and noted that many towns have no police protection or have inadequate part-time police protection.

The Subcommittee determined at its first meeting that it appears unfeasible at this time to require law enforcement agencies to combine although some means should be devised to encourage cooperation between law enforcement agencies. Under Chapter 28E of the Code of Iowa (1973), any governmental subdivision may combine with any other governmental subdivision to perform services that each can perform separately. Pursuant to this law, some cities and towns in Iowa have contracted with county sheriffs' offices to provide law enforcement services.

The Subcommittee visited the Clinton County Law Enforcement Center in Clinton, a joint city-county facility. The County Sheriff's Office contracts with all of the cities and towns in

Clinton County, except for three, to provide law enforcement services. Crime Commission funds were available to help finance the joint facility.

In the hopes of encouraging more governmental subdivisions to cooperate in providing law enforcement services and to alleviate some of the jurisdictional problems and problems concerning liability, the Subcommittee makes the following recommendations:

1. That a resolution be drafted urging counties and cities within counties to complete agreements under Chapter 28E of the Code for the county sheriff to provide law enforcement services to cities unable to provide adequate services for themselves.

2. That a resolution be drafted urging the Iowa Crime Commission to encourage counties and cities or several cities jointly to investigate and implement joint funding endeavors for law enforcement projects.

3. That a resolution be drafted stating that the General Assembly encourages cooperation among county and city governments in building joint law enforcement facilities wherever feasible.

4. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to authorize mutual law enforcement assistance between any county or city, or combination thereof. The bill should provide that the person in charge of the agency requesting assistance be granted the authority for directing the operation and provide that the assisting agency is responsible for any injuries sustained by the assisting persons and is also responsible for disability and workmen's compensation.

5. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to set forth responsibility for liability, workmen's compensation, and disability when there is a law enforcement agreement made pursuant to Chapter 28E of the Code.

6. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to provide statewide jurisdiction for peace officers in the fulfillment of an agreement for auxiliary services and for requested law enforcement assistance.

7. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement concerning elections for bond issues for joint city-county facilities. The bill would provide that there need be only one countywide election and the total number of votes cast within the city be regarded as conclusive evidence for the city bond issue as well as the county bond issue.

8. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to provide for standard uniforms for the county sheriffs and their deputies.

9. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to remove the \$50,000 limit on county building construction without an election in those cases where the construction is for joint law enforcement facilities and federal matching funds have been authorized.

10. That a bill be drafted for consideration by the Committees on Law Enforcement to provide sheriffs' deputies with civil service status, except for the sheriff and a chief deputy. The bill should provide that if a deputy with civil service status runs for sheriff, he must resign his civil service status.