

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Report to Members of the
Second Session of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly

State of Iowa
1978

1977 Report
Public Health Systems Subcommittee
of the
Joint Committees on Human Resources

The Public Health Systems Subcommittee was authorized two meetings during the 1977 interim, which were held on August 10 and October 21. The Subcommittee consisted of Senator Bob Rush and Representative Ingwer Hansen, Co-Chairs, Senator Rolf Craft and Elizabeth Miller, and Representatives Greg Cusack, Terry Dyrland, Laverne Schroeder and Craig Walter.

At its August 10 meeting, the Subcommittee received considerable information regarding the need for local public health services in Iowa, and the extent to which this need is being met in various counties in the state. In addition to the data compiled by the Human Resources Committee staff, information was received at that meeting from representatives of the Iowa Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality, and from persons connected with local and county health agencies.

On October 21, the Subcommittee received a detailed progress report from Dr. Ron Eckoff of the state Department of Health on the implementation of the home health care services appropriation passed by the 1977 Session, House File 597. Representatives of that department and the departments of Agriculture and Public Instruction were present, together with persons from the Speech and Hearing Association, the Iowa School Nurses Association, the Iowa State Association of Counties and a few county health agencies, to discuss the proposed legislation under consideration by the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee first took up the bill at its August meeting. It was revised and further considered at the October meeting, at which time instructions were given the Legislative Service Bureau for additional revisions. Those revisions were made, and a fiscal note was requested on the bill, but circumstances prevented further consideration of the bill prior to the 1978 Session.

In its most recent revision, the bill under consideration by the Subcommittee--LSB 3067H--requires counties to provide for a full-time public health director, to establish a public health nursing program providing aid for victims of chronic diseases, to provide maternal and child health and home health services, to establish an environmental control program involving water sanitation, liquid and solid waste control, food inspection, pest control, swimming pool inspection, pest control, swimming pool sanitation and housing conservation and rehabilitation. The bill permits counties to meet these requirements through the formation of multi-county district health departments. School districts must provide

public health nursing services in each school, but may contract with the county or district health department to provide the needed nurses.

As presently written, the draft bill would appropriate \$50,000 each fiscal year to each district health department with jurisdiction over two or more counties, and 50 cents per capita to each such department with jurisdiction over either an area of five or more counties or a total population of 100,000 or more persons.