

on the immediate fringes of existing cities, thus avoiding development which would make the areas a burden or unsuitable for later annexation.

8. COUNCILS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The Commission recommends the adoption of legislation by States authorizing the formation of metropolitan councils of public officials.⁷ These voluntary associations of elected public officials provide a forum for the consideration of common problems, and to development of coordinated approaches to solutions. They help to develop a consensus among public officials regarding metropolitan needs and serve to develop regional leadership. The councils are increasingly assigned additional functions—particularly planning responsibility.

Councils can be established on a strictly voluntary basis, pursuant to specific statutory authorization, or under general interlocal cooperation legislation.

9. AUTHORIZATION FOR CREATION OF METROPOLITAN AREA STUDY COMMISSIONS

Where legislative authority does not now exist, the States should authorize the establishment of metropolitan area commissions on local government structure and services, for the purpose of developing proposals for revising and improving local government structure and services within the area. The commissions should be created, optionally, by either mutual and concurrent action of the governing bodies of the local governments, or by initiative petition and election of the voters of the metropolitan area. There should be provisions to assure that the membership will be balanced so as to provide general equity of representation for the population groups and governments comprising the metropolitan area. Proposals developed by the commissions should become effective if they are approved at a special election held for this purpose.⁸

10. AUTHORIZATION FOR CREATION OF METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING BODIES

The Commission has recommended enactment of State legislation authorizing the establishment of metropolitan area planning agencies representing the political subdivisions of the metropolitan area. The planning body should make advisory recommendations to local governments in the area concerning planned metropolitan development. It should also prepare areawide plans for land use and capital investment and should review proposed local zoning ordinances, building regulations, and major physical facility plans.⁹

All States except Arizona, South Dakota, and Wyoming now have legislation authorizing some form of metropolitan planning.¹⁰ This

⁷ See "Regional Councils of Public Officials," ACIR 1966 State Legislative Program (Washington, D.C. : October 1965), pp. 291-296.

⁸ See "Metropolitan Study Commissions" ACIR 1966 State Legislative Program (Washington, D.C. : October 1965), pp. 101-118.

⁹ See "Metropolitan Area Planning Commission," ACIR 1966 State Legislative Program (Washington, D.C. : October 1965), pp. 237-249.

¹⁰ U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, *Hearings, Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1965*, 89th Cong., 1st sess., 1965, p. 288.