

legislation should be reviewed to insure that it does not limit metropolitan planning to county governments but also permits planning by multijurisdictional agencies when a metropolitan area covers more than one county. To provide adequate policy guidance for metropolitan planning, the enabling legislation should also contain the other features proposed by the Commission. These provisions—advice to local governments, plan preparation, the review of local development controls and major facility plans—are intended to relate metropolitan planning closely to the decisionmaking of governments in the area. To further integrate metropolitan planning with the political process, it is desirable to include elected officials from local governments among the planning commission members. Where the metropolitan area covers more than one county, the Commission suggests that one or more representatives of the State government, as designated by the Governor, be included among the members.

11. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR METROPOLITAN AREA AFFAIRS

The State should establish, or adopt an agency of the State government for continuing attention, review, and assistance to the metropolitan areas of the State and their problems of local government, planning, structure, organization, and finance.¹¹

In 1959, the New York State Legislature, on the recommendation of Governor Rockefeller, established an office for local government within the executive department of the State. It contains an advisory board of nine members, including representatives of both the State and its local governments. This office was given responsibility to assist the Governor in coordinating State activities to provide more effective services to local governments and in formulating State policies related to local government; to serve as a clearinghouse of information on local government problems and State and Federal services available to cope with them; to give advice and assistance to local governments requesting it; to conduct research; to encourage cooperative efforts among local governments; and to help improve inservice training for local government employees.

At least 10 other States have now established State agencies for urban affairs to give continuing attention, review, and assistance on problems of local government finance, structure, organization, and planning, including Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Alaska, Tennessee, Washington, California, Missouri, Illinois, New Jersey, and Colorado.

Pennsylvania has gone further than any other State to date, and even the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, by establishing a Cabinet level Department of Community Affairs in 1965 and transferring to it a number of operating programs and planning responsibilities.¹²

Among its responsibilities are:

To promote a comprehensive plan, or series of plans, for the proper future requirements of cities, boroughs, or townships of the Commonwealth; either separately or jointly;

¹¹ See "Office of Local Affairs," ACIR 1966 *State Legislative Program* (Washington, D.C.: October 1965), pp. 353–356.

¹² Pennsylvania, S.B. 1444, 1965.