

government.¹⁴ Land acquisition by special districts should be subject to approval by the unit of general government where the land is located, with this approval subject to court review. Proposals for special district capital improvements should be submitted for prior comment to the unit of general local government where the improvement will be located. Where the special district performs a function that directly affects a State program, such approval and review of district activities should also be required by the agency responsible for the State program.

The Commission also recommends that States enact legislation requiring special districts to maintain budgets and accounts according to uniform procedures determined by an appropriate State agency. The State agency should be required to audit district accounts at regular intervals. Service charges and tolls levied by special districts which are not reviewed and approved by the governing body of a unit of general government, should be reviewed and approved by an appropriate State agency.

The States should also enact legislation providing a simple procedure for consolidating special districts performing the same or similar functions, and permitting an appropriate unit of general government to assume responsibility for the function of a special district.

14. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES AMONG LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

The Commission recommends State legislative or administrative action to facilitate use of the Governor's discretionary authority to resolve disputes among local governments in metropolitan areas which cannot be resolved locally by mutual agreement, are not of sufficient scope to warrant special legislative action, but which, in the determination of the Governor, are likely to impede the effective performance of governmental functions.

In the absence of areawide units of government, no authority exists short of the State for resolving disputes among counties or cities in metropolitan areas. Examples of disputes that might best be handled through gubernatorial action are boundary and annexation questions, conflicts between local governments and State agencies concerning highway routes, and conflicts growing out of overlapping zoning and building regulations imposed on the same area by two or more local governments.

FEDERAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

In reviewing the metropolitan impact of Federal aid programs, the Commission identified 43 Federal programs (by 1966 there were at least 70) that support the physical development of urban areas.¹⁵ These include Federal aids for housing, transportation, urban planning, open space acquisition, urban renewal, public works, hospitals, schools, airports, waste treatment, conservation, and recreation. The

¹⁴ See "Supervision of Special District Activity," ACIR 1966 State Legislative Program (Washington, D.C.: October 1965), pp. 411-420.

¹⁵ ACIR, *Impact of Federal Urban Development Programs on Local Government Organization and Planning*, prepared in cooperation with the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. Senate (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1964).