

PROGRESS REPORT
OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

At its September 8, 1971, meeting, the Legislative Council established the Local Governments Financial Assistance Study Committee, to study methods of providing financial assistance to local government agencies for providing area-wide services. The Committee was directed to submit its final report to the Legislative Council prior to the convening of the first session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly in January, 1973.

The following members of the General Assembly were named by the Legislative Council to serve on the Local Governments Financial Assistance Study Committee:

Senator Roger J. Shaff, Temporary Chairman
Senator Gene V. Kennedy
Senator John C. Rhodes
Representative Don D. Alt
Representative Joseph C. Johnston
Representative Henry C. Mollett

At its first meeting the Committee elected Representative Alt as Chairman and Senator Shaff as Vice Chairman.

The first Committee meeting was held on November 3, 1971. Mr. Robert E. Hays, Executive Director of the League of Iowa Municipalities, appeared and presented a written statement to the Committee. He concluded that the state should provide municipal governments with the modern legal framework proposed in the municipal code bill, House File 574, and more adequate revenues by way of state revenue sharing or authority for local option taxes.

Senator Eugene M. Hill also appeared at the first meeting and presented information relating to the bonded indebtedness of Iowa cities and towns.

The second Committee meeting was held on December 7, 1971. At this meeting the Committee received the following presentations:

1. Mrs. Dorothy Elliott, Story County Auditor, discussed area-wide projects which have been initiated or are being considered for Story County. She suggested that membership of the governing board and financing for the projects are the main difficulties.
2. Dr. Dean Zenor and Mr. Harry Smith, of the Institute of Public Affairs in Iowa City, presented a staff paper and background ideas and comments on "Financing Services on an Area Basis".
3. Representative Ivor Stanley, Mr. Lou Burkhalter, and Professor Russell M. Ross from the University of Iowa, pre-

sented a summary and discussion of "Project 76", the Linn County effort to achieve regional cooperation in the areas of local government, schools, and social services.

4. Mr. Glen D. Anderson, Jr., and Mr. Terrance E. Swanson, from the Office of the Comptroller, accompanied by the TRACIS Management Group consisting of Mr. Marvin R. Selden, Jr., State Comptroller, Mr. George W. Orr, Executive Director of the State Crime Commission, and Mr. Michael M. Sellers, Commissioner of Public Safety, presented slides and answered questions relating to the statewide TRACIS project, and the Iowa Police Radio System study.

5. Mr. Reynold P. Jurgensen, Supervisor of Clinton County, discussed the city-county law enforcement center there.

The Local Governments Financial Assistance Study Committee makes no recommendations at this time but will continue its work during the 1972 interim, and plans to make a final report to the Legislative Council and to the General Assembly prior to January 1, 1973.