

## Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Tuesday, March 26, 1996 Meeting, 1:30 PM  
Indiana State Library Auditorium  
140 North Senate Avenue; Indianapolis, Indiana

Chairman Joseph Zakas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45pm. Senator Zakas announced there was a quorum present (Attendance sheet attached) and thanked members for braving the cold weather. Senator Zakas assured that all members present had reviewed the minutes from the organizational meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously. Senator Zakas turned the meeting over to Staff Director John Krauss to discuss the items on the agenda.

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### AGENDA

Call to Order ..... Chairman Joseph C. Zakas  
Approval of Minutes of October 25, 1995 Meeting.....Commission Members  
White Paper I Presentation..... Laura Littlepage  
Fact Book Presentation..... Michael Przybylski  
Federal and State Budget Presentation .....Dorrie Mowen Murphy  
IACIR Web Page Presentation ..... John L. Krauss/Tracy Williams  
Mandate Study..... John L. Krauss  
US ACIR Federal Mandates Review..... John L. Krauss/Tracy Williams  
IACIR State and Local Needs Survey..... John L. Krauss/Tracy Williams  
Regional Forum Proposal..... John L. Krauss  
Other Business  
Next Meeting  
Adjournment

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Mr. Krauss briefly explained the reasons for the White Paper and Fact Book, before turning the floor over to the author of the Fact Book, Dr. Michael Przybylski of the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment. Dr. Przybylski presented illustrations as to how to use the Fact Book on Indiana Local Government Revenue and its value to local and state officials. Dr. Przybylski stated that the book only contained the largest taxes for local units of government. The commission members identified other taxes, such as financial institution taxes, alcohol beverage taxes, and food and beverage taxes that are received by local units.

Following a brief introduction by John Krauss, Tracy Williams presented the first in a series of White Papers—*White Paper #1, HB 1297: Auto Excise Tax and Police/Fire Pension Reform* written by Laura Littlepage also from the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment. The paper discusses how HB 1297, passed this year, and HEA 1598, passed last year, affected the local government revenues from excise taxes. She also discussed the Police and Fire Pension Relief Fund created in HB 1297.

Next Dorrie Mowen Murphy, a Budget Analyst for the State Budget Agency presented the impact of the expected decisions in Washington in regard to the balanced budget and federal program appropriations. Ms. Murphy emphasized that only eight of the thirteen appropriation bills have been passed. She also reminded the commission that the eleventh continuing resolution was set to expire on March 29, 1996. Additionally, Ms. Murphy highlighted the JTP Summer Youth Program, LEAHEAP, Social Services Block Grant, Title 1 At-Risk Education Grant (local school district source of federal fund), Welfare, and Medicaid.

Mr. Krauss and Ms. Williams discussed the newly created IACIR Internet web page and its capabilities to link users to other resources of information. There was a quick demonstration of World Wide Web's capability to enhance communication among members and organizations.

Adhering to the agenda, Mr. Krauss continued with a discussion of the U.S. ACIR mandate study, as well as the approaches utilized by other ACIRs when examining their state's mandates. The commission agreed that a catalog of every single state mandate may not be as valuable as a study that focuses on those mandates that are most burdensome to local officials. There was discussion of perhaps teaming with Legislative Services Agency to produce a current mandate study. Some members agreed it would be beneficial to examine the local impact of a proposed bill before it is passed. Mr. Krauss relayed how the Congressional Budget Office in Washington has assembled a fast reaction network of constituent organizations that give feedback as to how a piece of proposed legislation would effect them and/or those they represent if it were to pass.

In regard to an Indiana mandate study, there was concern expressed that members needed a study that had practical applications rather than academic applications. Suggestions were made that if each local official listed, in their opinion, what the ten worst mandates are, a baseline for examining mandates could be established.

John Krauss displayed an example of a survey the National League of Cities have conducted for the last twelve years. Examples of the questions asked and some results of *The State of America's Cities: The Twelfth Annual Opinion Survey of Municipal Elected Officials* were displayed. It was expressed that most officials know what the problems are, hence questions that address what can be done to alleviate the problems need to be asked. Many members concluded that there are several mandates they consider "irritants that you accept and just live with it."

Senator Zakas expressed the value of conducting a survey of state and local officials requesting their opinion of the worst mandates. Members discussed the benefits of collaborating with the Association of Indiana Counties and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns in developing a survey that not only identifies burdensome mandates, but also identifies other issues of concern to officials. The survey should also solicit ideas for correction.

Senator Zakas recommended that a request for agenda items be sent out to members approximately one month before each meeting. Rick Cockrum made a motion recommending that staff develop a survey instrument on mandates to identify the specific mandates and other issues of concern to county, city, and township officials. The motion was second and passed unanimously.

The next agenda item was the notion of creating a regional forum of the IACIR. Senator Zakas suggested the staff survey the commission as to their thoughts on the benefits of a regional forum. Mr. Krauss indicated that another meeting would likely be scheduled before June.

The meeting was adjourned.