

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21

WHEREAS, it is the goal of state and local government in Wisconsin to continue to provide a broad range of quality public services without placing an excessive or inequitable burden on the State's taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, growing demands on government, the importance and complexity of the state-local government partnership, and the strain of the nation's economic problems make it more difficult to achieve that goal; and

WHEREAS, many of these difficulties are based in part on Wisconsin's system of state and local financing, which is often a patchwork of anachronistic and modern, regressive and progressive, taxing programs; and

WHEREAS, questions about the role of the property tax, the large number of taxing jurisdictions in the state, the levying and administration of taxes, the accountability of State and local government and their relationship have been raised with increasing frequency; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to examine the relationship between State and local government in Wisconsin in all its aspects and the system of State and local government financing as part of a comprehensive review and revision of the state-local government partnership; and

WHEREAS, a number of State citizen commissions in the past have provided Wisconsin with innovative ideas and leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK J. LUCEY, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE  
BUREAU

14.019, Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

(1) Establish the Governor's Commission on State-Local Relations and Financing Policy;

(2) Appoint HARRY L. WALLACE as Chairman of the Commission and 48 individual members to serve with him;

(3) Charge the Commission with responsibility for investigating, examining, and -- in the manner it deems most effective and expeditious -- evaluating the relationship between State and local government in Wisconsin, their system of providing and financing public services and, in particular: the role of the property tax and other taxes, the number and structure of taxing jurisdictions, and the administration of tax and financing policies;

(4) Charge the Commission with reviewing and updating the recommendations and findings of the public commissions and task forces that have studied state-local relations, financing and taxing policies and problems, over the last 25 years -- including the work of the Tarr Task Force, the Kellett Committee, the Doyle Task Force, and the Church Committee on Metropolitan Problems.

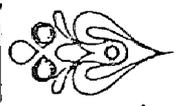
(5) Further charge the Commission with responsibility for recommending to the Governor and the Legislature the changes and innovations necessary to improve the state-local partnership in Wisconsin, to maintain the quality of public services, and to make Wisconsin's system of government financing more equitable and efficient;

(6) Ask that the Commission submit its final report to me and the Legislature before January 1st, 1977;

(7) Instruct every employee and officer of this State to furnish to the Commission through its agents any information they



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



may request concerning State departments, divisions, bureaus, and boards and to give the Commission and its agents every assistance in the performance of their duties; and

(8) Instruct the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide the Commission with such sums of money that are necessary and proper for the Commission's legitimate travel and operating expenses, as approved by the Joint Committee on Finance under Section 20.505(5) (a), Wisconsin Statutes.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison, this \_\_\_\_ day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five.

*Patrick J. Lucey*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK J. LUCEY  
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Douglas LaFollette*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUGLAS LaFOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

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