

WHEREAS, the role and function of county government has changed significantly over the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, services now provided our citizens by Wisconsin's counties require greater structural flexibility, consistency, and simplicity than is now provided in the statutes, in order that county government may achieve the increased efficiency demanded by limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the statutes governing county government in Wisconsin have been amended on an inconsistent basis, to solve a variety of county problems, and no comprehensive review has been undertaken to identify, clarify, and coordinate outdated, obsolete or inconsistent statutory provisions; and

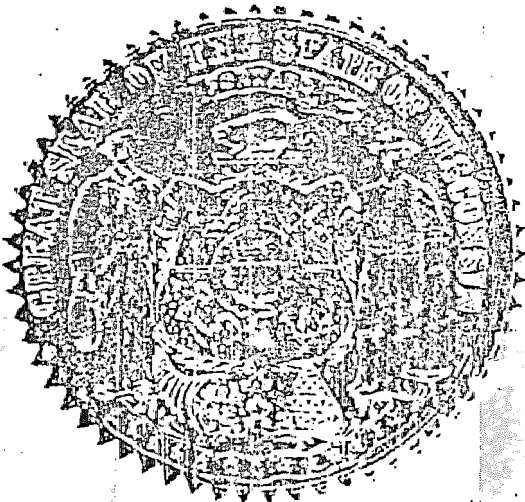
WHEREAS, county governments, through the Wisconsin Association of County Boards, have asked that state government assist them in an effort to solve this problem;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 14.019, Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby

1. Create the Governor's Task Force on County Government Organization and Administration, to consist of members appointed by the Governor.
2. Charge the Task Force with the responsibility to examine the Wisconsin Statutes for obsolete statutory provisions which now serve to impede the structure and operation of county government, including:
 - a. Statutory impediments to the administrative and organizational flexibility of county government.
 - b. The role and relationship of county constitutional officers to the issue of administrative and organizational flexibility.
 - c. Contradictory and ambiguous statutory language relating to the powers, duties and organization of county government.
 - d. The authority to establish user fees for county services.
 - e. The roles of county administrator, county board chairperson and the county board as they relate to the question of separation of powers within county government.

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3. The examination and subsequent recommendations shall be limited to issues concerning administrative matters. Programmatic issues shall not be addressed. Local officials shall be given the opportunity to comment on any recommendation of the task force. The intent of this task force is not directed at nor should it be construed to emphasize in any manner, the weakening or strengthening of any specific efforts, areas or responsibilities of any part of county government.
4. Direct the Task Force to submit an interim report on progress and recommendations on August 31, 1980. The Task Force shall submit its final recommendations to the Governor no later than February 1, 1981.
5. Instruct the Secretary of the Department of Local Affairs and Development to assign such staff as is necessary to assist the Task Force in their work.
6. Instruct the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide the Task Force with such sums of money that are necessary for legitimate travel and operating expenses as provided by the Joint Finance Committee 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 _____ in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty.

LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS

By the Governor:

VEL R. PHILLIPS
Secretary of State

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