



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

July 31, 1974

SUBJECT: Composition of State Planning Agency for LEAA FUNDS

TO: Honorable H. Joseph Hepford

FROM: Walter H. Plosila, Federal-State Relations Coordinator, House Majority Staff *WP*

I understand that legislation is being drafted by your Select Committee changing the composition of the Governor's Justice Commission.

I am enclosing the following information which may be of assistance to you in drafting this State Legislation.

Both the U.S. House and Senate have passed differing versions of a new "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act." Both bills place responsibility for the program in LEAA. Under Senate Bill (S.B. 821), the LEAA designated State Planning Agency, in order to receive Federal formula grants, must have an Advisory Group appointed by the Governor to advise the State planning agency and its supervisory board. This Advisory Group must have twenty-one to thirty-three members "who have training, experience, or special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency or the administration of juvenile justice, including representatives of local government, law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, also, representatives of private organizations concerned with delinquency; and at least one third of whose members shall be under the age of twenty-six".

In addition, this Senate Bill amends Section 203(a) of Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control Act by deleting the third sentence and adding the following:

"The State Planning Agency and any regional planning units within the State shall within their respective jurisdictions be representative of the law enforcement and criminal justice agencies including agencies directly related to the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency, units of general local government, and public agencies maintaining programs to reduce and control crime, and shall include representatives of citizen, professional, and community organizations directly related to delinquency prevention."

The U.S. House version it has passed (H.B. 15276) places the program in Health, Education, and Welfare with grants to single State agencies under a State supervisory board appointed by the Governor with at least fifteen members experienced in delinquency prevention and treatment. The House defeated an amendment to place the program under LEAA.

Until a conference committee resolves these differences, what the Federal government will require as to the composition of LEAA-supported State planning agencies will remain indefinite. If the Senate version stands, your committee will have to take these Federal requirements into account if the State is to receive Juvenile Delinquency funds.

W.H.P.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

By Ronnie Fox

Date August 30, 1974

FILE: Illinois Justice Commission

Neither Legislative Reference nor the Law Library had any information on the Illinois Justice Commission, except the Law Library had reference to an Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, Suite 600, 150 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, telephone No. 312:454-1560. An alternate address was 525 West Jefferson Street, Room 207, Springfield, Illinois, telephone No. 312:525-3962. The Executive Director was listed as Dr. David Fogel at Chicago.

In the interest of time, a call was placed to Dr. Fogel's office requesting a copy of the Illinois action on the Justice Commission. Dr. Fogel's secretary said it was created by Executive Order #1 and that a copy of the directive would be placed in the mail to the attention of Mr. Hepford. Dr. Fogel's secretary's name is Shirl.

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August 26, 1974

Mr. Downey Rice, Counsel
Committee to Investigate the Administration
of Justice
House of Representatives
Room B-2, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Dear Mr. Rice:

I have read your proposed bill for the Establishment of a Criminal Justice Commission in the Department of Justice.

I am in agreement that such a committee and such a commission should be legislated and not just a product of an executive order.

As a matter of almost general principal I oppose Commissions that are as large as the one that you suggest. You will remember I expressed my doubt when I appeared before your committee. The larger the commission the less each member seems to assume responsibility. However, I must admit that two weeks ago I watched the Illinois Justice Commission in action and it seemed to work very smoothly. Yet, it had twenty-four members.

I would not include among the membership the chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole nor the Secretary of Education and, if a Department of Corrections bill is passed I would certainly include the Secretary of the Department of Corrections. I would be inclined not to permit designees.

If the commission is to be composed of the members appointed in accordance with the formula you have devised, I think you will end up with a commission that has a tendency to cut up the pie among its members. It is my feeling that representatives of the police, the probation department, the courts, etc., should be on it, but in their accumulative effect they should not dominate it. I think it was Tolstoy who said war was too important to be left to the generals. I think the problems of criminal justice in Pennsylvania are too important to be left to the bureaucrats. I would like to see a Commission that

has about eleven members from the law enforcement segments and about thirteen persons who are chosen because of their broad interests in the quality of life in Pennsylvania. It may be of interest to you that the Illinois Commission whose meeting I attended has no state officials on it whatsoever. It has a few sheriffs, district attorneys, police officers, and correctional officials, but its membership is dominated by outstanding citizens from across the state. It is chaired by the vice chancellor of the University of Illinois who is a political scientist by profession.

I hope this is helpful to you. If I can be of any other assistance in this or other matters do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William G. Nagel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

William G. Nagel
Director

WGN:fw

An Act

Comments -

① members of Commission - Sec 3. Page 2

Too many members - see Nagel's comments.
Twenty-four is far too unwieldy.

② Powers & Duties - Sec(4) Page 5

Suggest this be made stronger as -

To establish standards and goals for strengthening and improving law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice throughout this Commonwealth and to set priorities and to monitor progress in connection with implementation of established standards and goals.

③ Regional Planning Agencies -
~~Powers & Duties~~ Section 7 - Page 7

Really don't know exactly what this means.

Each county can't constitute a regional planning district.
This too small.

④ Suggest Laa - Washington get a crack at reviewing this.

