

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 85**

Introduced by Wickersham, 49

Read first time January 7, 1999

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to government; to create the Intergovernmental  
2 Relations Commission; to state intent; to provide  
3 membership; and to provide powers and duties.  
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1.    The Legislature finds that there is a need  
2 for a permanent intergovernmental commission to examine the  
3 following issues and advise the Governor and the Legislature on:

4           (1) The current structure of local government and the  
5 ongoing need for a local government structure which provides  
6 necessary public services in the most accountable, affordable, and  
7 effective manner;

8           (2) The powers, duties, capacity, and expenditures of  
9 local governments, including their regulatory powers and duties,  
10 fiscal capacity, and budgetary and service needs;

11          (3) The identified public infrastructure needs of local  
12 governments and the ability of local governments to finance and  
13 build this infrastructure;

14          (4) The necessary and useful fiscal and statutory  
15 relationships between state agencies and local governments,  
16 including the allocation of state fiscal resources to local  
17 governments and the use of information to guide state and local  
18 decisions; and

19          (5) The recommended role of the state government and  
20 state laws in directing the creation, operation, and ongoing  
21 operation of local governments.

22          Sec. 2. (1) The Intergovernmental Relations Commission  
23 is created.    The commission shall be established and its members  
24 appointed by January 1, 2001.   Beginning in 2001, the commission  
25 shall meet once each calendar quarter and at other times by  
26 majority vote of its members or at the call of the chairperson.  
27 The commission shall consist of seventeen members.   The members  
28 shall select a chairperson from among the members.

1           (2) The following members shall be appointed by the  
2 Governor with the approval of the Legislature: (a) Three elected  
3 school board members; (b) three elected county officials; and (c)  
4 three elected municipal officials. The Secretary of State or his  
5 or her designee, the Commissioner of Education or his or her  
6 designee, and the Property Tax Administrator or his or her designee  
7 shall be members. Five members of the Legislature representing the  
8 following committees shall be members: The chairperson of the Urban  
9 Affairs Committee or a designee of the committee; the chairperson  
10 of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee or a  
11 designee of the committee; the chairperson of the Appropriations  
12 Committee or a designee of the committee; the chairperson of the  
13 Revenue Committee or a designee of the committee; and the  
14 chairperson of the Education Committee or a designee of the  
15 committee. Members shall be reimbursed for their actual and  
16 necessary expenses pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

17           (3) The commission may hire staff as necessary and use  
18 office space within the State Capitol or other state facilities.  
19 The commission shall:

20           (a) Serve as a forum for discussion and resolution of  
21 intergovernmental issues;

22           (b) Provide recommendations and information to the  
23 Legislature, Governor, and public on issues affecting state and  
24 local government relationships;

25           (c) Engage in activities to examine and analyze the  
26 issues outlined in section 1 of this act, including studies or  
27 research performed by the commission, its staff, or public or  
28 private organizations under contract with the commission; and

1           (d) Consider on its own initiative ways and means of  
2 fostering better cooperation and services delivery relationships  
3 between local governments and between local and state governments  
4 in Nebraska.

5           Sec. 3. The Intergovernmental Relations Commission shall  
6 regularly produce reports on state and local governments which  
7 address:

8           (1) The fiscal resources collected and expended of  
9 county, city, village, and school governments in Nebraska, the  
10 report on which shall be developed and published annually;

11           (2) The combined state and local fiscal resources  
12 collected and expended annually to deliver public services, the  
13 report on which shall be developed and published annually;

14           (3) An inventory of the publicly managed government  
15 infrastructure and an assessment of the identified infrastructure  
16 needs of local governments in Nebraska. The inventory shall be  
17 developed and published by January 1, 2003, and every four years  
18 thereafter; and

19           (4) An inventory of mandated programs or state-local  
20 mandate issues and an annual evaluation of a specific mandate or  
21 mandates selected for examination by the commission. The inventory  
22 shall be developed and published by January 1, 2004, and every two  
23 years thereafter.