



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 4/13/10
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
SUBJECT: H.R. 3332- Restore the Partnership Act

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Determine a position on H.R. 3332, the Restore the Partnership Act; and
- 2) Communicate the Board's position to the County's legislative delegation and recommend that should this legislation continue, effectiveness measures be included to monitor the intergovernmental outcomes derived from H.R. 3332.

Summary Text:

For decades, counties and the federal government worked together to answer the challenges facing the nation. But in recent years, that partnership has begun to wane. To change this, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched a campaign to "*Restore the Partnership*" between the federal government and counties nationwide. Through the campaign, NACo and county officials will work to educate and inform Administration officials and members of Congress about counties - the roles and responsibilities of counties and the key issues facing counties and their residents. A component of this restoration is the creation of the National Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs (NCIR). U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), former chair of the Fairfax County, Va. Board of Supervisors, has introduced H.R. 3332 – the Restore the Partnership Act – which would create such a commission.

Creating the NCIR would establish a permanent, independent, bipartisan group to study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships and the nation's intergovernmental machination. The 30-member commission would represent the interests of the federal system's intergovernmental

partners. The body would be the only established, freestanding part of the federal system in which the views of the federal government's intergovernmental partners could be openly aired, and in which difficulties and inefficiencies in the federal system's intergovernmental relationships could be examined. The ultimate goal is that creating such a commission will ensure that county officials have a greater voice in Washington, D.C. in the national policy debate.

Background:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has asked that all California counties support H.R. 3332 in order to facilitate the fullest cooperation and coordination between all levels of government. This item was referred to the Board by the County's Legislative Program Committee, which took a neutral position on the bill and directed staff to bring this item before the full Board for discussion of the matter.

The history of the previous Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs (ACIR) is detailed below.

1947 Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of Government was established by Public Law 80-162 to "study and investigate the present organization and method of operation of the executive branch of the government for the purpose of limiting expenditures and eliminating duplication, and consolidating, abolishing and defining executive services, functions and activities." The Commission was commonly called the "Hoover Commission."

1949 In their concluding report, the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of Government recommended that a permanent agency "be created with primary responsibility for study, information and guidance in the field of Federal-State relations."

1953 Congress created a temporary commission known as the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. This commission was commonly known as the "Kestenbaum Commission."

1955 Commission on Intergovernmental Relations issued its final report.

1955 House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee conducted a comprehensive study of the recommendations of the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations resulting in Public Law 86-380.

1959 ACIR was established by the 86th Congress as a "permanent, bipartisan body of 26 members, to give continuing study to the relationship among local, state, and national levels of government."

The Act provided that the commission would:

1. Bring together representatives of the Federal, State, and local governments for consideration of common problems;
2. Provide a forum for discussing the administration and coordination of Federal grant and other programs requiring intergovernmental cooperation;
3. Give critical attention to the conditions and controls involved in the administration of Federal grant programs;

4. Make available technical assistance to the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government in the review of proposed legislation to determine its overall effect on the Federal system;
5. Encourage discussion and study at an early stage of emerging public problems that are likely to require intergovernmental cooperation;
6. Recommend, within the framework of the Constitution, the most desirable allocation of governmental functions, responsibilities, and revenues among the several levels of government; and
7. Recommend methods of coordinating and simplifying tax laws and administrative practices to achieve a more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationship between the levels of government and to reduce the burden of compliance for taxpayers.

1995 Funds were appropriated for ACIR in the Treasury, Postal Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 1996. For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, \$784,000 was appropriated, “of which \$450,000 shall be available only for the purposes of the prompt and orderly termination of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.”

1996 ACIR is closed.

Present Renewed interest in creating a new National Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs through H.R. 3332.

Performance Measure:

None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

Text of H.R. 3332

Authored by:

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CC:

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