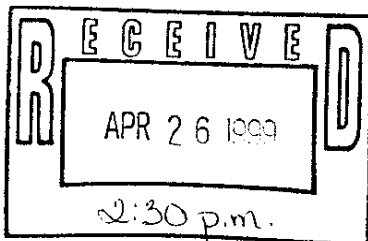




## Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

Mr. Virgil F. Puskarich  
Executive Director  
Local Government Commission  
633 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3078



April 26, 1999

RE: House 167 Task Force

Dear Mr. Puskarich:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, and the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association, we wish to express our support for several proposals already made by the Task Force. In addition, we have included some new suggestions that we are hopeful the Task Force will consider at tomorrow's meeting. We believe that this proposal will assist the Task Force in making recommendations that will fulfill the intent of House Resolution 167.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and efforts in bringing the Task Force to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Hite  
Assistant Executive Director

**Local Government Proposal:  
Incentives for Intergovernmental Cooperation  
and the Establishment of  
Regional and Municipal Police Forces**

- Provide funding in the form of grants and loans for the creation and support of regional police departments
  - Provide start-up funding for both equipment and labor costs for the first five years of the establishment of a regional police force at gradually decreased percentages.
    - Initial percentage scale based on the number of participating municipalities:
      - 50 percent for two municipalities
      - 75 percent for three to five municipalities
      - 85 percent for five or more municipalities
    - Start-up funding would be dependent upon an agreement that the municipalities would remain a part of the regional police force for a minimum number of years.
    - Regional police departments could use this funding to construct a central station and dispatch center, then place smaller substations in the participating municipalities.
    - A possible funding source could be a \$30 fee levied on all criminal convictions
- Dedicated funding source--2% loan program proposed by Representative Tangretti
  - Could be used for start-up and continuation funding of both regional and municipal police forces.
  - Loans of \$5,000 to \$200,000 for the purchase, expansion, or repair of buildings.
  - Loans of \$5,000 to \$100,000 for the purchase, maintenance, or repair of vehicles or equipment.
- Creation of a municipal/regional police fund—Proposed by Representative Tangretti
  - Fees could be applied to all criminal convictions and then split between municipal and regional police departments.
- Special public safety tax assessment for police protection
  - Currently public safety assessments may be levied for fire protection and ambulances service.
  - Assessment could ONLY be used for police protection and not diverted to other expenses.
- Amend the appropriate municipal codes to allow municipalities to petition the court of common pleas for the right to levy an additional 10 mills if a municipality funds a municipal or regional police department.

- Increase reimbursements to regional police departments for officer's training
  - Recommended in a report by the Senate Republican Development and Research Office (PDRO)
  
- Exempt regional police departments from paying their 40 percent share of officers salaries while receiving their Act 120 training—OR permit regional police departments to only hire officers who have completed their Act 120 training.
  
- Business tax credit
  - A state tax credit, for contributions made by businesses for the establishment of police departments.
  - Recommended by PDRO
  
- Greater use of the shared services program—grants for municipalities undertaking intermunicipal cooperation efforts.
  - Recommended in a report by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.
  
- Waive the provisions of Act 111 for the first 5 years after the establishment of a police force, then phase in the Act's requirements over the following three years.
  
- Provide management and technical consultants to educate and assist municipalities in establishing and managing the organization of their police forces.
  - This service could be offered through a government agency, such as the Governor's Center for Local Government Services.
  - Municipalities desire professional assistance in designing the best possible regional police force, along with the necessary tools to successfully manage a police force.
  - Mechanism needs to be put in place to guarantee that local police departments, specifically regional departments, can be effectively managed by, and remain under the authority of, the participating municipalities.
    - This mechanism must include the retention of municipal authority over the police entity within their borders. Many municipalities fear that they will lose local autonomy by joining a regional police force.
  
- Extra \$10 levied on all vehicle violations designated for municipalities who provide for their own police protection. This money would be allocated to the State Police if a municipality does not provide police protection.
  
- Allow municipality to keep all fines issued for citations on roads within a municipality by the local police.
  
- Require that anyone convicted of causing an incident through reckless endangerment, drug use, or driving under the influence pay the municipality for all emergency response expenses incurred.

--Fine persons convicted of driving under the influence \$200 in order to recover the costs of blood testing, processing, and booking.

--Eliminate binding arbitration as a means of settlement in union/employer contract disputes

-- Require that mediation be used to settle union/employer contract disputes.

--Grant the Pennsylvania State Police the authority to voluntarily contract with interested municipalities to provide a menu of policing services based on a cost scale agreed to by both parties.