HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis   Bill No. HB 2147

Revising associations of local governments   Public Hrg: 3/5/97
Brief Title

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BACKGROUND:

1.   Associations of local governments and officials.

State law creates, authorizes, or recognizes in various ways associations of local governments or local officials. In one instance such an association is created by state law as a state agency. In all other instances these associations are private nonprofit organizations that were created by actions of officials under general nonprofit incorporation statutes.

Legislation was enacted in 1947 creating the Washington State Association of School Directors as a state agency with a membership consisting of every local school board director in the state. The school directors association is funded by membership dues established by the association, but the total of all dues shall not exceed 27 cents per $1,000 of the statewide total of general fund receipts received by all school districts. The association was established to (1) coordinate programs and procedures among school districts, (2) conduct studies and disseminate information on school boards, (3) provide advice and assistance to local school boards, (4) effect the coordination of policy-making, control, and management of school districts, and (5) submit reports and recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on matters pertaining to increased efficiency of the common school system.

Education service districts are authorized to pay dues to a statewide association of education service district board members. School districts are authorized to pay membership fees in nonprofit organizations that promote school administration, operation, instruction, and finances.

Legislation was enacted in 1939 authorizing counties to designate the Washington State Association of Counties, which had been created years before, to (1) effect the coordination of their administrative programs; (2) prepare reports on county operations, and (3) submit recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on their joint recommendations on changes that increase their efficiency. Counties are authorized to reimburse this association from county current expense funds.

Legislation was enacted in 1959 authorizing various county elected officials to

designate the Washington State Association of County Elected Officials as a

coordinatiagencyforthecoordinatioofprogramsandtosubmitrecommendations

to the Governor and Legislature. Counties are authorized to reimburse this association

from county current expense funds.

County planning commissions may pay membership dues of their commissioners in

organizations specializing planning.

Various special districts have been authorized in statute to create associations to

disseminate information and promote the economical operation of the special districts.

The special districts may pay dues to the associations.

Several groups of local governments have created associations and pay dues to the

associations without express statutory authorization. This includes the Association

of Washington Cities and Washington Public Utility District Association.

2. <u>Prohibition on use of public funds and facilities to support or oppose a ballot</u>

proposition or candidacy.

State voter approved Initiative Measure No. 276 in 1972. Initiative Measure No. 276

prohibit the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for state or local office.

Initiative Measure No. 276 prohibits the director indirect use of public facilities

assist in the campaign for the election of any person to office or for the promotion or

opposition to any ballot proposition except