

1 local legislation, or at least a great part of it in this
2 State, was with regard to municipalities, and it was a
3 great evil. As a result, in 1948, the Legislature took
4 steps trying by the Express Powers Act with regard to
5 municipalities to end this, but the Sobeloff Commission in
6 its third report recommended that a constitutional amend-
7 ment go even further and grant home rule to municipalities,
8 and that constitutional amendment was then passed in 1954.
9 This section is at the heart of the Sobeloff Commission
10 recommendations and at the heart of home rule in munici-
11 palities. What it did at that time is require the General
12 Assembly to act only by general law with regard to
13 municipalities. At the same time it permitted municipalities
14 to obtain powers by changing their charter as long as the
15 General Assembly general law did not preclude that, and
16 municipalities have used that since that time and since
17 that time there has been no local legislation with regard
18 to municipalities.

19 This is an important section, but we are putting
20 it in the statutory provisions and not in the transitory
21 provisions so that the Legislature could change it at any