

in recommended section 7.06. Today local government in Maryland is characterized by a higher degree of involvement by the General Assembly in county affairs and in the passage of local legislation than exists in most other states. Home rule by itself lessens this involvement to some extent. Shared powers will reduce this involvement even more.

But the committee recommendation in section 7.06 contains a specific prohibition against local laws, a requirement that all laws with certain exceptions be public general laws of statewide application, and a restriction on the now prevalent system of county exemptions from public general laws. This will reduce public local legislation even further.

The fourth problem about which you have been reading recently in the newspapers is the interrelationship of municipal corporations with the county and State. Sections 7.07 through 7.09 relate to this. We resolved here to preserve the home rule powers of existing municipal corporations and to permit both the counties and the General Assembly to give municipalities additional powers. The General Assembly will provide procedures for the resolution of disagreements between counties and municipalities not capable of resolution on a local basis.

This is in contrast to the present Constitution under which both counties and municipalities have received parallel grants of powers from the General Assembly. Today, counties cannot grant municipalities additional powers. Since counties and municipalities have overlapping jurisdiction, completion for powers and resources has at times occurred instead of cooperation.

New municipalities and other intra-county units of government which we call "civil units" may be created within the counties and will derive their powers from the county, subject to procedures laid down by the General Assembly.

The fifth area is multi-county government. This is covered by recommended section 7.10. Many present and future problems should be dealt with on a regional basis, not on a county basis. There are many needs requiring governmental action transcending county boundary lines, such as planning, zoning, economic development, sanitation, water supply, mass transit, water and air pollution, and public health, to name just a few.

The power of the General Assembly to establish multi-county authorities and re-

gional governments is preserved by recommended section 7.10. The General Assembly has that power now.

In addition, the State and all units of local government are permitted by recommended section 8.06 to enter into agreements with other units of government, subject to limitations provided by law.

Having touched in a general way upon the main issues faced by the Committee, and given in general form some of the resolutions we recommend, I would like to turn to a section by section analysis of the Committee Recommendation.

Section 7.01 contains definitions. I have already described what this does. I shall not read the section itself. I think it is fairly clear.

"County" is defined; "municipal corporation" is defined; "civil unit" is defined; and "region" is defined.

Baltimore City, as you know, is presently treated as a county for most purposes, but for some purposes is treated as a municipality. For clarity we include Baltimore City within the term "county."

Of course, this also clarifies that new counties which might be formed also would be included within the definition of "county."

"Municipal corporations" is defined so as to exclude Baltimore City and the counties. Multi-county governmental units such as the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission are also clearly excluded. Although some sections of the present Constitution specifically exclude such authorities, this definition clarifies that multi-county authorities would be excluded.

"Civil units" is used to mean a unit of local government, other than a municipality, furnishing county services in part of a county which is entirely within and subject to the control of the county. The term does not include a department of county government.

We will get into this in greater detail when we discuss section 7.08, where the term is used.

Sections 7.02, Establishment of Counties; and 7.10, Establishment of Multi-County Government Units, should be considered together. They deal with the power of the General Assembly to establish counties and multi-county governmental units.

In sections 7.02 and 7.10 and the entire