

**The Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration
Committee Recommendations
by
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Case for Recommendations:

Ohio's forms of local governments were established over a hundred years ago when the United States was in the height of the manufacturing age. At that time Ohio was one of the wealthiest states in the country. In the new Globalization age where goods can be manufactured anywhere in the world where costs are lower, Ohio has become a poor state and does not have the resources to support duplicate local government services.

Recommendation:

Many states have faced this issue of duplicate government services and have implemented legislation to find ways to reduce duplication and costs. The one that I found the most interesting was the **Georgia Service Delivery Strategy Act of 1995**. The act forced all local governments within a county to come up with a plan to reduce duplication of services and therefore costs. The Georgia Act would not exactly fit Ohio, but I would like to propose variation of it for Ohio.

I proposed the Ohio General Assembly pass a bill that would establish in each county a **Local Government Services and Collaboration Commission**. The commission members would be the County, each City, Village and township. It would also include any governmental organization, excluding schools, that receive revenue through property tax or a county sales tax. The commission would be required to:

1. Identify all local government services provided by the local governments and entities within the county.
2. Develop a strategy to eliminate the duplicate services provided.
3. Develop a strategy to consolidate similar services provided by local governments.
4. Develop a binding implementation plan for the strategies with a timetable.

5. Complete a plan within two years of the passage of the bill and reinstitute the commission every 10 years for review and modification.
6. If a Service and Collaboration plan was not generated by the deadline, State Government Funds would be withheld from all entities in the county.
7. All local government entities must vote on the plan by their elected officials or boards. In order for the county plan to pass, 95% of the local governments and governmental organizations must vote for the plan. The entities that did not vote for the plan would not be eligible for any form of state funding.