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ENTERPRISE ZONES While years of debate have failed to get a federal enterprise zone program off the ground, 36 states since 1982 have done more than talk, designating enterprise zones within their own borders. State enterprise zone officials say they would get a boost if Congress were to adopt a federal enterprise zone program, adding attractive federal tax breaks to the variety of tax and non-tax amenities states offer. But state officials hope any federal program is adapted to what already exists on the state level. Congressman Charles Rangel on January 5, 1993, introduced a bill including plans for 150 enterprise zones. It would be funded at five times the level of any enterprise zone bill previously introduced. Concern over the federal budget deficit could derail enterprise-zone legislation before it has a chance to gain momentum.

SUCSESSES Enterprise zones, or specially designed areas of distress where investment is attracted through tax breaks and other amenities, have worked in states where the tax incentives are combined with other strategies for eliminating poverty. Programs in Indiana and New Jersey are frequently praised as success stories.

INDIANA It is not tax breaks alone that are making Indiana's enterprise zones attractive to businesses. The local 'urban enterprise associations' that by state law manage the zones also have a great deal to do with it. Made up of representatives from business, government and the neighborhoods, the associations get a community's major players involved in solving local problems. The associations require that some monies saved through incentives are poured back into the communities. Among the factors to the success of Indiana's enterprise efforts is staying true to the primary mission: service to low-income populations.

NEW JERSEY Like Indiana, New Jersey has taken a holistic approach to urban revitalization. Businesses that locate in one of New Jersey's 10 qualified enterprise zones receive a variety of possible tax benefits, including the ability to charge half of the regular sales-tax rate for most retail sales. But, as in Indiana, local managers say attacking a community's other problems is as important as dangling tax breaks in front of companies.

FAILURES The concept has failed when government officials simply put tax incentives in place and turned away, losing sight of the programs' intent of helping low-income individuals. Here, Louisiana and Connecticut are frequently mentioned.

LOUISIANA Perhaps the most telling example of an enterprise zone program gone haywire exists in Louisiana. Louisiana has 1,500 zones that encompass about 60% of the state's land area. It is indeed difficult to talk about targeting investment to needy areas--a primary goal of state enterprise zone programs--when most of the state is considered part of the target.

CONNECTICUT Where governments have believed that tax incentives alone would revitalize ailing communities, programs have not accomplished much. In Connecticut, the state that launched the nation's first enterprise zone program in 1982, many say the zones have done little to improve the quality of life in the state's urban areas, which continue to lag far behind the state's suburbs and rural towns.

CONCLUSION The success of a state's enterprise zone program, then, may be inversely proportional to how much importance officials place on tax breaks. If officials hear enterprise zone and immediately talk tax incentives, they are probably sending the wrong message.

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The information on the previous page was abstracted and condensed from two articles by Gary Enos which appeared recently in City & State. The two articles are "Enterprising approaches: Tax inducements aren't only ingredient for success of zones" and "Cisneros seeks expanded federal development areas." For more information, please call Gary Enos at the New York office of City & State at 212/210-0734. City & State (ISSN 0885-940x) is published semi-monthly by Crain Communications, Inc., 740 North Rush St., Chicago, Illinois 60611-2590, phone 1-800/678-9595. (C&S v. 10, #3, pp. 3 & 19)

SHIFT TO STATES Congressman Don Edwards of California is expected to introduce legislation this session that would begin shifting responsibility for gathering and maintaining criminal history databases from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to state law-enforcement agencies. The legislation is expected not only to call for the decentralization of criminal records but also to address data quality issues associated with distributing this information outside law enforcement. As envisioned, the new system will be a nationally available index based on the databases of individual states. Currently the FBI must maintain a separate set of criminal records in addition to those held at the state level. Collectively, the state and federal records make up the Interstate Identification Index (III), a database that can be accessed by the National Crime Information Center's telecommunications system. Much of the III data however, is duplicative. Eventually the FBI will maintain only files gathered on federal offenders, relying exclusively on states for the majority of criminal records. Before that happens, the FBI must be sure it continues to access and distribute criminal history records just as it does now. By law, FBI, state and local law-enforcement agencies freely exchange these records for criminal justice services, such as the arrest or detainment of a suspect. It is a different story, however, when it comes to sharing this information; for example, to determine whether an applicant is suitable for a job at a school or daycare center. State privacy laws often dictate the distribution of such information for non-criminal justice uses. Laws vary from state to state, ranging from full disclosure of records for non-criminal justice purposes in some states to a completely 'closed' system in others. Because some states cannot distribute criminal records for other than law-enforcement purposes, policy changes at the federal and state levels will have to be enacted before the system can become completely decentralized, which could include action in all 50 state legislatures. To begin the consensus-building between states and the FBI, a subcommittee of the National Crime Information Center Advisory Policy Board drafted an agreement, dubbed the III Compact. Under the current arrangement, the FBI's central system is composed of information submitted manually by state and local law-enforcement agencies. States must submit an arrest card, which includes a set of fingerprints and records, each time a suspect is arrested, convicted, sentenced, incarcerated and released. Because decentralization should occur simultaneously with the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System initiative, records should become more manageable. Upon the first arrest, a fingerprint file will be created, and an imaged fingerprint file will be maintained. States will no longer have to forward subsequent arrest cards. Should a state choose not to enter the III Compact, it will continue to submit all arrest cards. Along with text-based III records, the compact asserts jurisdiction over the National Fingerprint File, which will also be decentralized, according to the agreement. Neither criminal history records nor imaged fingerprints, however, will be directly accessible for parties outside the law-enforcement system. As envisioned by the compact, these entities would have to go through state law enforcement agencies for this information. The above information was abstracted and condensed from the article "Bill Shifting FBI Data to States Expected" by Jennifer Jones. The article appeared in a recent edition of Federal Computer Week: The Newspaper for the Government Systems Community. Federal Computer Week (ISSN 0893-052X) is published three times a month by Government Information Technology Group (GITG), 3110 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4599; phone 703/876-5100. (FCW v. 7, #4, pp. 20-21)

BNA/WESTLAW West Publishing Company has announced the addition of five databases from the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) to WESTLAW, West Publishing Company's computer-assisted legal research service. The five data bases are : BNA Health Care Daily (BNA-HCD); BNA State Environment Daily (BNA-SED); BNA National Environment Daily (BNA-NED); BNA Management Briefing (BNA-BMB); and BNA International Business and Finance Daily (BNA-IBFD). The BNA National Environment Daily and the BNA State Environmental Daily databases replace the former Environment Law Update (BNA-ELU) database on WESTLAW. Back issues of BNA-ELU database are available in both the BNA-SED and BNA-NED databases. The BNA International Business and Finance Daily database combines two databases: BNA International Business Daily (BNA-IBD) and BNA International Finance Daily (BNA-IFD). Back issues of these databases can be found in the BNA-IBFD database. All five databases are provided through an agreement between the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. and West Publishing Company and are updated every business day. All documents are prepared by the editorial staff of the Bureau of National Affairs. For more information, please call West Reference Attorneys at 1-800/688-6363 or Dorothy Molstad at 612/687-7617. (WL NR 2/10/93)