

No. 408

**UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION—
CITIES—COUNTIES—EMPLOYMENT OFFICES, contri-
butions by cities and counties****Held: County or city may pay rental or partial rental for office quarters for employment office operated by State Unemployment Compensation Commission.**

April 22, 1942.

Mr. W. A. Brown
State Examiner
State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Attention: Mr. A. M. Johnson,
Deputy State Examiner

Dear Mr. Brown:

You ask whether a city or county has authority to pay rental or partial rental to the Unemployment Compensation Commission for office quarters for an employment service operated by the Commission.

This question was answered, to a certain extent, in the affirmative by the recent case of State ex rel. Barr v. District Court, 108 Mont. 433, 91 Pac. (2nd) 399.

Moreover, Section 6, Chapter 164, Laws of 1941, amending Section 12, Chapter 137, Laws of 1937, contains the following express provision:

“For the purpose of establishing and maintaining free public employment offices, the commission is authorized to enter into agreements with any political subdivisions of this State or with any private, non-profit organization, and as a part of any such agreement the commission may accept moneys, services, or quarters as a contribution to the employment service account.”

A city comes within the purview of the phrase “political subdivision,” as used in the foregoing statute. (State ex rel. Housing Authority v. City of Great Falls, 110 Mont. 318, 100 Pac. (2nd) 915.)

I am therefore of the opinion that, as to both cities and counties, the questioned authority exists.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. BONNER
Attorney General