

2199--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 18, 2011

Introduced by Sen. SALAND -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- recommended to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law and the education law, in relation to requiring the state to fund certain programs mandated for municipal corporations and school districts

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. State mandated programs, unlike local
2 service decisions, place local taxpayers and local officials in the
3 position of paying for services that they do not control. Increasingly,
4 however, the state has set local priorities and forced municipal taxing
5 decisions by mandating services, programs, and standards. As a result,
6 many local governments and school districts are today in an acutely
7 difficult fiscal situation.

8 Thus, in order to prevent irresponsible state actions which prevent
9 localities from making their own decisions, and which force unwanted
10 local property tax increases, it is necessary to ensure that state
11 mandates will not be forced on localities and school districts unless
12 they are adequately funded.

13 S 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 25
14 to read as follows:

15 S 25. FUNDING OF MANDATES. 1. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS SECTION,
16 THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS UNLESS THE CONTEXT
17 SHALL OTHERWISE REQUIRE:

18 (A) "MANDATE" MEANS:

19 (I) ANY STATE LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION WHICH CREATES A NEW PROGRAM OR
20 REQUIRES A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING PROGRAM WHICH A
21 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE; OR

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05414-02-2

1 (II) ANY GENERAL LAW WHICH GRANTS A NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR
2 INCREASES AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WHICH THE MUNICIPAL CORPO-
3 RATION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE.

4 (B) "UNFUNDED MANDATE" SHALL MEAN:

5 (I) ANY STATE LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION WHICH CREATES A NEW PROGRAM OR
6 REQUIRES A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING PROGRAM WHICH A
7 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AND WHICH RESULTS IN A NET
8 ADDITIONAL COST TO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;

9 (II) ANY ALTERATION IN FUNDING PROVIDED TO A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR
10 THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE COSTS OF A PROGRAM WHICH IT IS REQUIRED TO
11 PROVIDE, THEREBY RESULTING IN A NET ADDITIONAL COST TO THE MUNICIPAL
12 CORPORATION; OR

13 (III) ANY GENERAL LAW WHICH GRANTS A NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR
14 INCREASES AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WHICH THE MUNICIPAL CORPO-
15 RATION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE, THEREBY RESULTING IN A NET ADDITIONAL
16 COST TO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

17 (C) "NET ADDITIONAL COST" MEANS THE COST OR COSTS INCURRED OR ANTIC-
18 IPATED TO BE INCURRED WITHIN A ONE YEAR PERIOD BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
19 PERFORMING OR ADMINISTERING A MANDATE AFTER SUBTRACTING THEREFROM ANY
20 REVENUES RECEIVED OR RECEIVABLE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF
21 THE MANDATED PROGRAM OR SERVICE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

22 (I) FEES CHARGED TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MANDATED PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

23 (II) STATE OR FEDERAL AID PAID SPECIFICALLY OR CATEGORICALLY IN
24 CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM OR SERVICE; AND

25 (III) AN OFFSETTING SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE DIMINUTION OR ELIMI-
26 NATION OF ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR SERVICE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE
27 PERFORMANCE OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANDATED PROGRAM.

28 2. FUNDING OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MANDATES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY
29 OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NO UNFUNDED MANDATE SHALL BE ENACTED WHICH
30 CREATES AN ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL COST TO ANY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN
31 EXCESS OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OR AN AGGREGATE ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL
32 COST TO ALL MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

33 3. EXEMPTIONS TO THE FUNDING OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MANDATES
34 REQUIREMENT. (A) THE STATE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FUND ANY NEW OR
35 EXPANDED PROGRAMS IF:

36 (I) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY A COURT ORDER OR JUDGMENT;

37 (II) THE MANDATE IS PROVIDED AT THE OPTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
38 UNDER A LAW, REGULATION, RULE, OR ORDER THAT IS PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN
39 MANDATORY;

40 (III) THE MANDATE RESULTS FROM THE PASSAGE OF A HOME RULE MESSAGE
41 WHEREBY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM
42 OR SERVICE SPECIFIED IN THE STATUTE, AND THE STATUTE IMPOSES COSTS ONLY
43 UPON THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH REQUESTS THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE THE
44 PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

45 (IV) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY, OR ARISES FROM, AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF
46 THE GOVERNOR EXERCISING HIS OR HER EMERGENCY POWERS; OR

47 (V) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY STATUTE OR EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IMPLE-
48 MENTS A FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION AND RESULTS FROM COSTS MANDATED BY THE
49 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE BORNE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, UNLESS THE STATUTE OR
50 EXECUTIVE ORDER RESULTS IN COSTS WHICH EXCEED THE COSTS MANDATED BY THE
51 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

52 (B) EACH ACT ESTABLISHING A MANDATE SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE EFFECTIVE
53 DATE OF ANY SUCH MANDATE IMPOSED ON MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SHALL BE
54 CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE STATE AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS TO
55 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND CONSISTENT WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF
56 REQUIRED FUNDS.

1 S 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 1527-a to
2 read as follows:

3 S 1527-A. FUNDING OF MANDATES IMPOSED ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS. 1. DEFINI-
4 TIONS. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE
5 FOLLOWING MEANINGS UNLESS THE CONTEXT SHALL OTHERWISE REQUIRE:

6 (A) "MANDATE" MEANS:

7 (I) ANY STATE LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION WHICH CREATES A NEW PROGRAM OR
8 REQUIRES A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING PROGRAM WHICH A
9 SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZED EITHER BY SPECIAL LAWS OR PURSUANT TO THE
10 PROVISIONS OF A GENERAL LAW, IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE; OR

11 (II) ANY GENERAL LAW WHICH GRANTS A NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR
12 INCREASES AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WHICH ANY SUCH SCHOOL
13 DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE.

14 (B) "UNFUNDED MANDATE" SHALL MEAN:

15 (I) ANY STATE LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION WHICH CREATES A NEW PROGRAM OR
16 REQUIRES A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING PROGRAM WHICH ANY
17 SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AND WHICH RESULTS IN A NET
18 ADDITIONAL COST TO SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT;

19 (II) ANY ALTERATION IN FUNDING PROVIDED TO ANY SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT
20 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE COSTS OF A PROGRAM WHICH IT IS REQUIRED
21 TO PROVIDE, THEREBY RESULTING IN A NET ADDITIONAL COST TO SUCH SCHOOL
22 DISTRICT; OR

23 (III) ANY GENERAL LAW WHICH GRANTS A NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR
24 INCREASES AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WHICH ANY SUCH SCHOOL
25 DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE, THEREBY RESULTING IN A NET ADDITIONAL
26 COST TO SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT.

27 (C) "NET ADDITIONAL COST" MEANS THE COST OR COSTS INCURRED OR ANTIC-
28 IPATED TO BE INCURRED WITHIN A ONE YEAR PERIOD BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
29 PERFORMING OR ADMINISTERING A MANDATE AFTER SUBTRACTING THEREFROM ANY
30 REVENUES RECEIVED OR RECEIVABLE BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ACCOUNT OF THE
31 MANDATED PROGRAM OR SERVICE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

32 (I) FEES CHARGED TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MANDATED PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

33 (II) STATE OR FEDERAL AID PAID SPECIFICALLY OR CATEGORICALLY IN
34 CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM OR SERVICE; AND

35 (III) AN OFFSETTING SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE DIMINUTION OR ELIMI-
36 NATION OF ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR SERVICE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE
37 PERFORMANCE OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANDATED PROGRAM.

38 2. FUNDING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT MANDATES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER
39 PROVISION OF LAW, NO UNFUNDED MANDATE SHALL BE ENACTED WHICH CREATES AN
40 ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL COST TO ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN EXCESS OF TEN THOU-
41 SAND DOLLARS OR AN AGGREGATE ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL COST TO ALL SCHOOL
42 DISTRICTS IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

43 3. EXEMPTIONS TO THE FUNDING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT MANDATES REQUIREMENT.

44 (A) THE STATE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FUND ANY NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS
45 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IF:

46 (I) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY A COURT ORDER OR JUDGMENT;

47 (II) THE MANDATE IS PROVIDED AT THE OPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
48 UNDER A LAW, REGULATION, RULE, OR ORDER THAT IS PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN
49 MANDATORY;

50 (III) THE MANDATE RESULTS FROM THE PASSAGE OF A HOME RULE MESSAGE
51 WHEREBY A SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OR
52 SERVICE SPECIFIED IN THE STATUTE, AND THE STATUTE IMPOSES COSTS ONLY
53 UPON THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT WHICH REQUESTS THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE THE
54 PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

55 (IV) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY, OR ARISES FROM, AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF
56 THE GOVERNOR EXERCISING HIS OR HER EMERGENCY POWERS; OR

1 (V) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY STATUTE OR EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IMPLE-
2 MENTS A FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION AND RESULTS FROM COSTS MANDATED BY THE
3 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE BORNE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, UNLESS THE STATUTE OR
4 EXECUTIVE ORDER RESULTS IN COSTS WHICH EXCEED THE COSTS MANDATED BY THE
5 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

6 (B) EACH ACT ESTABLISHING A MANDATE SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE EFFECTIVE
7 DATE OF ANY SUCH MANDATE IMPOSED ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL BE CONSISTENT
8 WITH THE NEEDS OF THE STATE AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
9 THEREOF, AND ALSO CONSISTENT WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED FUNDS.

10 S 4. This act shall take effect April 1, 2013 and shall apply to any
11 general or special law imposing mandates on municipal corporations or
12 school districts enacted on or after such effective date.