

2707--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 28, 2011

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Introduced by Sens. SALAND, ALESI, BALL, BONACIC, DeFRANCISCO, FARLEY, FLANAGAN, FUSCHILLO, GALLIVAN, GOLDEN, GRIFFO, GRISANTI, HANNON, JOHN-SON, LANZA, LARKIN, LAVALLE, LIBOUS, LITTLE, MARCELLINO, MARTINS, MAZIARZ, McDONALD, NOZZOLIO, O'MARA, RANZENHOFER, RITCHIE, ROBACH, SEWARD, SKELOS, VALESKY, YOUNG, ZELDIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- recommitted to the Committee on Finance 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; and to amend the education law, in relation to the effect of mandates on 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:

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

LBD05594-08-2

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

4 (A) "MANDATE" MEANS:

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; OR

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

11 (B) "UNFUNDED MANDATE" SHALL MEAN:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 2. FUNDING OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MANDATES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY  
36 OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NO UNFUNDED MANDATE SHALL BE ENACTED WHICH  
37 CREATES AN ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL COST TO ANY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

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

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

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

45 (III) THE MANDATE RESULTS FROM THE PASSAGE OF A HOME RULE MESSAGE  
46 WHEREBY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM  
47 OR SERVICE SPECIFIED IN THE STATUTE, AND THE STATUTE IMPOSES COSTS ONLY  
48 UPON THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH REQUESTS THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE THE  
49 PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

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

52 (V) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY STATUTE OR EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IMPLE-  
53 MENTS A FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION AND RESULTS FROM COSTS MANDATED BY THE  
54 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE BORNE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, UNLESS THE STATUTE OR  
55 EXECUTIVE ORDER RESULTS IN COSTS WHICH EXCEED THE COSTS MANDATED BY THE  
56 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

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

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

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

(A) "MANDATE" MEANS:

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

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

(B) "UNFUNDED MANDATE" SHALL MEAN:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(III) AN OFFSETTING SAVINGS RESULTING FROM THE DIMINUTION OR ELIMINATION OF ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR SERVICE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PERFORMANCE OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANDATED PROGRAM.

2. FUNDING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT MANDATES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NO UNFUNDED MANDATE SHALL BE ENACTED WHICH CREATES AN ANNUAL NET ADDITIONAL COST TO ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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

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

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

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

(III) THE MANDATE RESULTS FROM THE PASSAGE OF A HOME RULE MESSAGE WHEREBY A SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OR SERVICE SPECIFIED IN THE STATUTE, AND THE STATUTE IMPOSES COSTS ONLY

1 UPON THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT WHICH REQUESTS THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE THE  
2 PROGRAM OR SERVICE;

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

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

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

14 S 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 308-a to  
15 read as follows:

16 S 308-A. SPECIAL PROVISIONS; MANDATES. 1. AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
17 "MANDATE" MEANS (A) ANY STATE LAW, RULE OR REGULATION WHICH CREATES A  
18 NEW PROGRAM OR REQUIRES A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING  
19 PROGRAM WHICH A SCHOOL DISTRICT, ORGANIZED EITHER BY SPECIAL LAWS OR  
20 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF A GENERAL LAW, IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE, OR

21 (B) ANY GENERAL LAW WHICH GRANTS A NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR  
22 INCREASES AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WHICH ANY SUCH SCHOOL  
23 DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE.

24 2. IN THE EVENT THAT A MANDATE WHICH IMPOSES A COST UPON A SCHOOL  
25 DISTRICT IS CREATED AFTER THE ADOPTION OF A SCHOOL BUDGET, SUCH MANDATE  
26 SHALL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR FOR WHICH SUCH SCHOOL  
27 BUDGET WAS ADOPTED.

28 3. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, SUCH A MANDATE CAN  
29 BE IMPOSED IF:

30 (A) THE MANDATE IS PROVIDED AT THE OPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER  
31 A LAW, REGULATION, RULE OR ORDER THAT IS PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN MANDATO-  
32 RY;

33 (B) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY, OR ARISES FROM, AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF  
34 THE GOVERNOR EXERCISING HIS OR HER EMERGENCY POWERS; OR

35 (C) THE MANDATE IS REQUIRED BY STATUTE OR EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IMPLE-  
36 MENTS A FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION AND RESULTS FROM COSTS MANDATED BY THE  
37 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE BORNE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, UNLESS THE STATUTE OR  
38 EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPOSES COSTS WHICH EXCEED THE COSTS MANDATED BY THE  
39 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

40 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that:

41 1. sections one through three of this act shall be deemed to have been  
42 in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2012 and shall apply to  
43 any general or special law imposing mandates on municipal corporations  
44 or school districts enacted on or after such effective date; and

45 2. the commissioner of education shall adopt any regulations needed to  
46 implement the provisions of this act on or before July 1, 2013.