

STATE OF NEW YORK

5849

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. LALOR, DeSTEFANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. FRIEND -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing amendments to article 9 of the constitution, in relation to prohibiting unfunded mandates

1 Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That article 9 of the
2 constitution be amended by adding a new section 4 to read as follows:

3 § 4. Prohibition on unfunded mandates; council on local mandates. 1.
4 a. Any provision of law determined in accordance with this section to be
5 an unfunded mandate shall cease to be mandatory in effect and shall
6 become voluntary in operation.

7 b. A provision of law that requires one or more political subdivisions
8 to expend funds or to take actions requiring the expenditure of funds
9 shall be deemed an unfunded mandate if such provision of law results in
10 an aggregate net increase in necessary direct expenditures by any poli-
11 tical subdivision of the state. Any such aggregate net increase in
12 expenditures shall be offset by: (i) monies provided to political subdi-
13 visions for the specific purpose of funding such provision of law; and
14 (ii) decreases in expenditures expected to result from other provisions
15 of law enacted concurrently therewith that repeal, reduce or modify
16 existing mandates on political subdivisions. For purposes of this
17 section, all budget bills and legislation necessary to implement the
18 budget enacted pursuant to article seven of this constitution shall be
19 deemed to have been concurrently enacted into law.

20 c. For purposes of this section, the term "political subdivision"
21 shall mean a county, city, town, village, school district or special
22 district, and shall include any agency, authority, commission, depart-
23 ment or instrumentality thereof.

24 d. For purposes of this section, the term "law" shall mean a statute
25 enacted by the legislature, an executive order issued by the governor,

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

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1 and a rule or regulation promulgated by a state agency, department,
2 board, bureau, officer, authority or commission.

3 2. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the
4 following types of laws shall not be considered unfunded mandates:

5 a. those necessary to comply with federal law;

6 b. those for which the aggregate net increase in required direct
7 expenditures by political subdivisions is less than ten thousand
8 dollars;

9 c. those that have been requested through a home rule message or other
10 resolution of the affected political subdivision, or which have been
11 accepted by the affected political subdivision;

12 d. those reapportioning responsibilities between or among political
13 subdivisions;

14 e. those arising from an executive order of the governor exercising
15 his or her emergency powers;

16 f. those applicable to both government and non-government entities in
17 the same or a substantially similar manner;

18 g. those in full force and effect prior to the effective date of this
19 section, including any provision of law that extends or reauthorizes
20 such a law.

21 3. The legislature shall establish by law a council on local mandates.
22 The council shall consist of seven members of whom two shall be
23 appointed by the governor, one by the temporary president of the senate,
24 one by the minority leader of the senate, one by the speaker of the
25 assembly, one by the minority leader of the assembly, and one by the
26 comptroller. The governor shall designate a chair from among the
27 members.

28 The legislature shall establish by law qualifications for such
29 appointments, which shall include the requirement that one of the
30 members appointed by the governor shall be made on the recommendation of
31 political subdivisions or duly appointed representatives thereof. All
32 legislation required by this subdivision shall be enacted into law with-
33 in sixty days after the effective date of this section, and initial
34 appointments to the council shall be made within sixty days thereafter.

35 4. a. The council shall timely resolve any complaint by an aggrieved
36 political subdivision that a provision of law constitutes an unfunded
37 mandate. A ruling of the council shall be restricted to the specific
38 provision of law that constitutes an unfunded mandate and shall, to the
39 extent practicable, leave intact the remainder of the law.

40 b. Determinations of the council shall be subject to review by the
41 supreme court in the same manner and under the same standards of review
42 as administrative determinations of state agencies and departments;
43 provided, however, that the state may seek judicial review of a determi-
44 nation by the council that a provision of law constitutes an unfunded
45 mandate. Proceedings to review council determinations shall be given
46 precedence over all other causes and proceedings before the court.

47 § 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be
48 referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the
49 next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in
50 conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be
51 published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.