

STATE OF NEW YORK

5728

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BARCLAY, PALMESANO, BRABENEC, BLANKENBUSH, FRIEND, DiPIETRO, MILLER, WALSH, MANKTELOW, GALLAHAN, LEMONDES, DeSTEFANO, SIMPSON, TAGUE, BEEPHAN, SLATER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ANGELINO, K. BROWN, FITZPATRICK, HAWLEY, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to unfunded mandates on local governments and school districts

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The legislative law is amended by adding a new section 51-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 51-a. Moratorium on unfunded mandates. 1. Definitions. As used in
4 this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 (a) "Local government" means a county, city, town, village, school
6 district, or special district.

7 (b) "Net additional cost" means the cost or costs incurred or antic-
8 ipated to be incurred within a one year period by a local government in
9 performing or administering any program, project, or activity after
10 subtracting therefrom any revenues received or receivable by such local
11 government in relation to such program, project, or activity, including
12 but not limited to:

13 (i) fees charged to the recipients of such program, project, or activ-
14 ity;

15 (ii) state or federal funds received for such program, project, or
16 activity; and

17 (iii) an offsetting savings resulting from the diminution or elimi-
18 nation of any other program, project, or activity that state law
19 requires such local government to provide or undertake.

20 (c) "Unfunded mandate" means:

21 (i) any state law that requires a local government to provide or
22 undertake any new program, project or activity that results in an annual

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

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1 net additional cost to any local government in excess of ten thousand
2 dollars or an aggregate annual net additional cost to all local govern-
3 ments within the state in excess of one million dollars; or

4 (ii) any state law that requires a local government to provide a high-
5 er level of service or funding for an existing program, project or
6 activity that results in an annual net additional cost to any local
7 government in excess of ten thousand dollars or an aggregate annual net
8 additional cost to all local governments within the state in excess of
9 one million dollars; or

10 (iii) any state law that requires a local government to grant any new
11 property tax exemption or that broadens the eligibility or increases the
12 dollar amount of any existing property tax exemption, on property that
13 otherwise would have generated revenue under the current property tax
14 rate of such local government in excess of ten thousand dollars in any
15 local government or in excess of one million dollars statewide; or

16 (iv) any state law with a legal requirement that would otherwise like-
17 ly have the effect of raising property taxes in excess of ten thousand
18 dollars in any local government or in excess of one million dollars
19 statewide.

20 2. Moratorium on unfunded mandates. Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of law, no unfunded mandates shall be enacted.

22 3. Exemptions. (a) A state law shall not be considered an unfunded
23 mandate where such law:

24 (i) is required by a court order or judgment; or

25 (ii) is provided at the option of the local government under a law
26 that is permissive rather than mandatory; or

27 (iii) results from the passage of a home rule message whereby a local
28 government requests authority to implement the program or service speci-
29 fied in the statute, and the statute imposes costs only upon that local
30 government which requests the authority to impose the program or
31 service; or

32 (iv) is required by statute or executive order that implements a
33 federal law or regulation and results from costs mandated by the federal
34 government to be borne at the local level, unless the statute or execu-
35 tive order results in costs which exceed the costs mandated by the
36 federal government; or

37 (v) is imposed on both government and non-government entities in the
38 same or substantially similar circumstances; or

39 (vi) repeals or revises a state law to ease an existing requirement
40 that a local government provide or undertake a program, project, or
41 activity, or reapportions the costs of activities between local govern-
42 ments; or

43 (vii) is necessary to protect against an immediate threat to public
44 health or safety.

45 (b) The effective date of any act establishing a mandate shall provide
46 a reasonable time for the state and any local government to plan imple-
47 mentation thereof and shall be consistent with the availability of
48 required funds.

49 § 2. Section 51 of the legislative law, as added by chapter 985 of the
50 laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

51 § 51. Fiscal [impact] notes on bills affecting political subdivisions.

52 1. For the purpose of this section, the term "political subdivision"
53 means any county, city, town, village, special district or school
54 district.

55 2. ~~The legislature shall by concurrent resolution of the senate and~~
56 ~~assembly prescribe rules requiring fiscal notes to accompany, on a sepa-~~

~~rate form, bills and amendments to bills, except as otherwise prescribed by such rules, which]~~ A bill that would substantially affect the revenues or expenses, or both, of any political subdivision shall contain a fiscal note stating the estimated annual cost to the political subdivision affected and the source of such estimate.

3. Fiscal notes shall not, however, be required for bills: (a) subject to the provisions of section fifty of this ~~chapter~~ article, or (b) accompanied by special home rule requests submitted by political subdivisions, or (c) which provide discretionary authority to political subdivisions, or (d) submitted pursuant to section twenty-four of the state finance law.

4. If the estimate or estimates contained in a fiscal note are inaccurate, such inaccuracies shall not affect, impair or invalidate such bill.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that section one of this act shall only apply to laws enacted after such effective date.