



Senate Committee on Government Oversight

State Mandates

June 3, 2010

Senate Committee on Government Oversight Members

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Executive Summary

In response to the current economic climate of diminishing resources and growing budget obligations, the Senate Committee on Government Oversight was charged with collecting information on State mandates and their impact on local government. The Committee provided a public forum for municipalities, school committees and other interested parties to present the General Assembly with specific information on mandates. In an effort to facilitate the hearing process and to assist the Committee in addressing mandates, witnesses invited to testify were asked to provide the following information:

- Identify each mandate from which you seek relief and identify its annual estimated cost;
- Provide the specific source of each mandate (statutory, regulatory or other) and the authority that can provide relief from the mandate;
- Explain, to the best of your knowledge, the purpose for establishing the mandate; and,
- Identify the consequences of abolishing or modifying the mandate.

The Committee held a total of four hearings. Two hearings addressed municipal mandates, one addressed educational mandates and a final hearing provided an open forum to the general public. Despite the request for detailed information, the Committee received little in the way of data, particularly with respect to the costs of mandates. Consequently, the Committee is unable to accomplish its purpose of collecting data regarding mandates.

Therefore, the Committee does recommend legislation requiring each community to develop and maintain a comprehensive list identifying each State mandate and the cost associated with compliance. The proposed legislation requires each community to annually electronically file a copy of its mandates list and suggested costs of each mandate with the Division of Municipal Finance which will develop and maintain an inventory of mandates and the cost of complying with each mandate by community. The Committee recognizes that the legislation establishes a new mandate; however, the data is essential for the Legislature to make informed decisions regarding mandate relief.

The following report provides a summary of the testimony received by the Senate Committee on Government Oversight on the issue of State imposed mandates.

