# **Public Hearing**

10 F49/ 19946

before

## ASSEMBLY POLICY AND RULES COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1 (1R)

(Proposes constitutional amendment to prohibit State from requiring county or municipality to perform new or expanded program or service without full State funding)

LOCATION:

Room 319

State House

Trenton, New Jersey

DATE:

June 2, 1994

10:00 a.m.

## MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblyman Paul DiGaetano, Chairman Assemblyman George E. Williams

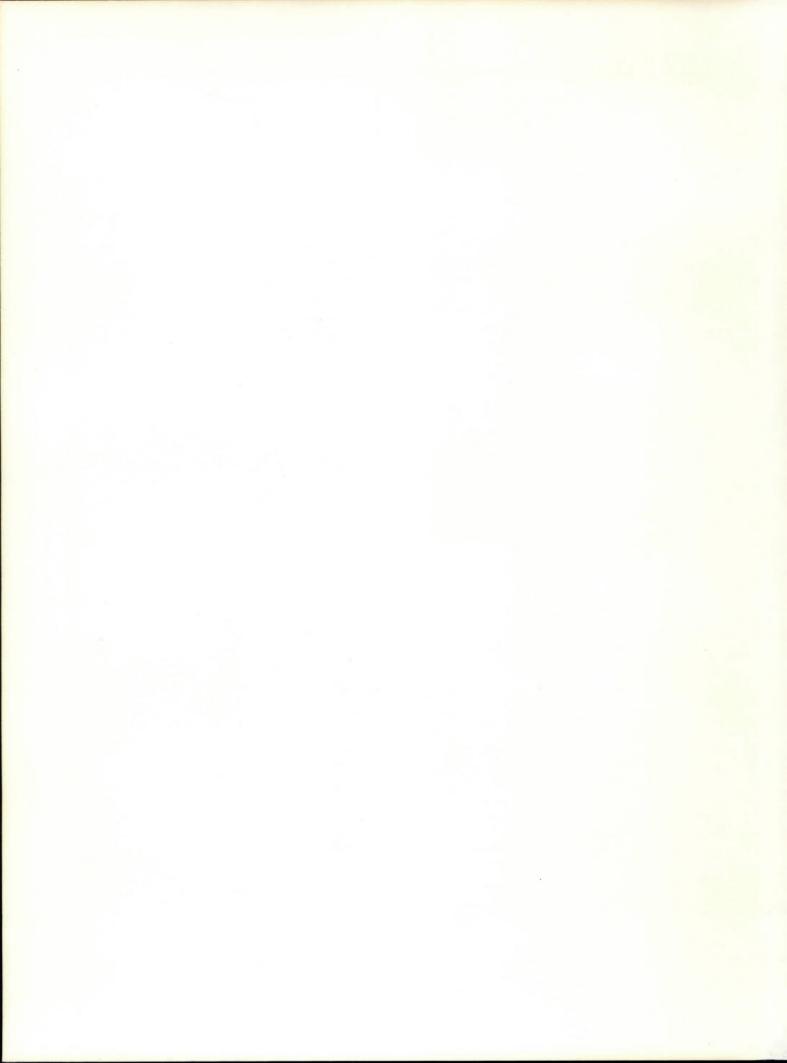
## ALSO PRESENT:

David L. Sallach
Office of Legislative Services
Aide, Assembly Policy and Rules Committee



Hearing Recorded and Transcribed by

The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office, Hearing Unit, State House Annex, CN 068, Trenton, New Jersey 08625



# [FIRST REPRINT] ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

#### PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1994 SESSION

By Assemblymen HAYTAIAN, GEIST, Connors, Gibson, Moran, Assemblywoman Crecco, Assemblymen Bagger, Bateman, Collins, DeCroce, LoBiondo, Mikulak, Assemblywoman Murphy and Assemblyman Zecker

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing to amend <sup>1</sup>[Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 6 and]<sup>1</sup> Article VIII, Section II of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

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BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey (the Senate concurring):

1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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<sup>1</sup>[a.]<sup>1</sup> Amend Article VIII, Section II of the Constitution by the addition of the following paragraph:

5. Commencing <sup>1</sup>[May 1, 1993] July 1, 1995<sup>1</sup> and except as otherwise provided herein, the State government shall not require 1by law, rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant to law, 1 the governing body of a county or municipality to <sup>1</sup>[perform] provide<sup>1</sup> any new or expanded program or service, as may be defined by law, without full State funding for any net additional costs directly required for the actual 1[performance] implementation1 of that program or service. Any provision of law, or of a rule, regulation or order issued pursuant to law, which has the effect of requiring a new program or service, or an expansion of an existing program or service beyond that level required by a State law, rule, regulation or order in effect prior to <sup>1</sup>[May 1, 1993] July 1, 1995<sup>1</sup>, shall <sup>1</sup>[be inoperative] become operative<sup>1</sup> in its effect upon a county or municipality 1[until] only when 1 sufficient State funds are provided to 1[the] each 1 affected county or municipality as may be necessary to pay the net additional costs directly required for the actual [performance] implementation of that program or service in compliance with this paragraph.

There may be enacted, in accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section I, paragraph 14 of this Constitution, a law of full operation and effect requiring the governing body of a county or municipality to <sup>1</sup>[perform] implement <sup>1</sup> a new or expanded program or service, but without the provision of State funding otherwise required by this paragraph, if <sup>1</sup>that new or expanded program or service is required by Federal law, rule, regulation or order, or by any decision, order or ruling by any court of competent jurisdiction, or if <sup>1</sup> a bill proposing the enactment of

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

*7* 

that law <sup>1</sup>[shall pass] <u>passes</u> <sup>1</sup> the Legislature by a two-thirds majority of all the members of each house, and the yeas and nays of the members voting on final passage are entered on the journal.

<sup>1</sup>[b. Amend Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 6 to read as follows:

- 6. All bills and joint resolutions shall be read three times in each house before final passage. No bill or joint resolution shall be read a third time in either house until after the intervention of one full calendar day following the day of the second reading; but if either house shall resolve by vote of three-fourths of all its members, signified by yeas and nays entered on the journal, that a bill or joint resolution is an emergency measure, it may proceed forthwith from second to third reading. No bill or joint resolution shall pass unless there shall be a majority of all the members of each body personally present and agreeing thereto, except that a bill requiring a county or municipality to perform a new or expanded program or service, as may be defined by law, but without the provision of full State funding otherwise required by Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 5 of this Constitution, shall not pass unless there shall be a two-thirds majority of all the members of each body personally present and agreeing thereto, and the yeas and nays of the members voting on such final passage shall be entered on the journal.
- (cf: Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 6 effective January 1, 1948)]<sup>1</sup>
- 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally agreed to, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it shall be submitted to the people at the next general election occurring more than three months after that final agreement and shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each county designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three months prior to that general election.
- 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and form:

There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at that general election, the following:

a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a legend which shall immediately precede the question, as follows:

If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (x), plus (+) or check (\(\sigma\)) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are opposed thereto make a cross (x), plus (+) or check (\(\sigma\)) in the square opposite the word "No."

b. In every municipality the following question:

PROHIBITION ON STATE REQUIREMENTS THAT COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES PERFORM NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS OR SERVICES WITHOUT FULL STATE FUNDING

 YES.

NO.

Do you approve the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the State government, on and after <sup>1</sup>[May 1, 1993] July 1, 1995<sup>1</sup>, from requiring by law, rule, regulation or order that a county or municipality <sup>1</sup>[perform] provide<sup>1</sup> any new or expanded program or service, as may be defined by law, unless sufficient State funds are provided to the county or municipality as may be necessary to pay for any net additional costs directly required for the actual <sup>1</sup>[performance] implementation<sup>1</sup> of the program or service, except in cases where a law imposing such requirement without providing for full State funding is enacted <sup>1</sup>to meet the requirements of a federal statute, rule, regulation or order; or any decision, order, or ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction; or <sup>1</sup> after passage by a two-thirds majority of all the members of each house of the Legislature <sup>1</sup>[, and further prohibiting the Legislature from passing a bill proposing such a law without providing for full State funding, except by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of each house of the Legislature]<sup>1</sup>?

#### INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

If this proposed amendment to the Constitution is approved, the State government would be prohibited, on and after <sup>1</sup>[May 1, 1993] <u>July 1</u>, 1995<sup>1</sup>, from requiring, through a State law, rule, regulation or order, that a county or municipality perform any new or expanded program or service unless the State provides the funds necessary to enable the county or municipality to comply with the requirement. An exception is authorized only when a State law requiring a new or expanded local program or service but without full State funding is enacted 1 to meet the requirements of a federal law, rule, regulation or order; or any decision, order or ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction; or after passage by a two-thirds majority of the members of both houses of the Legislature. <sup>1</sup>[The amendment also prohibits the Legislature from passing a bill proposing such a law without full State funding, except by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of both houses of the Legislature.]1

Proposes constitutional amendment to prohibit State from requiring county or municipality to perform new or expanded program or service without full State funding.

#### ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# [FIRST REPRINT] ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, No. 1

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**DATED: MAY 11, 1994** 

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1 (1R).

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1 (1R) proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the State from requiring the governing body of a county or a municipality to provide any new or expanded program or service without full State funding.

The resolution specifically proposes to amend Article VIII, Section II of the State Constitution by adding a new paragraph which:

- (1) would prohibit, as of July 1, 1995, the State government from mandating the governing body of any county or municipality to provide any new program or service, or to expand any existing program or service, unless the State provides full funding for the net additional cost directly required for the actual implementation of that program or service; but
- (2) would permit the enactment of a law that mandates the governing body of a county or municipality to provide a new or expanded program or service for which the State does not provide the required full funding for the net additional costs directly required for the actual implementation of that program or service if that new or expanded program or service is:
  - (a) required by Federal law, rule, regulation or order;
- (b) required by any decision, order or ruling by any court of competent jurisdiction; or
- (c) is enacted with the approval of two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

It is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact, if any, of this concurrent resolution because such impact would result from future decisions about State mandates.

#### ASSEMBLY POLICY AND RULES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# [CORRECTED COPY] ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, No. 1

with committee amendments

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 2, 1994

The Assembly Policy and Rules Committee favorably reports Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1 (CC) with committee amendments.

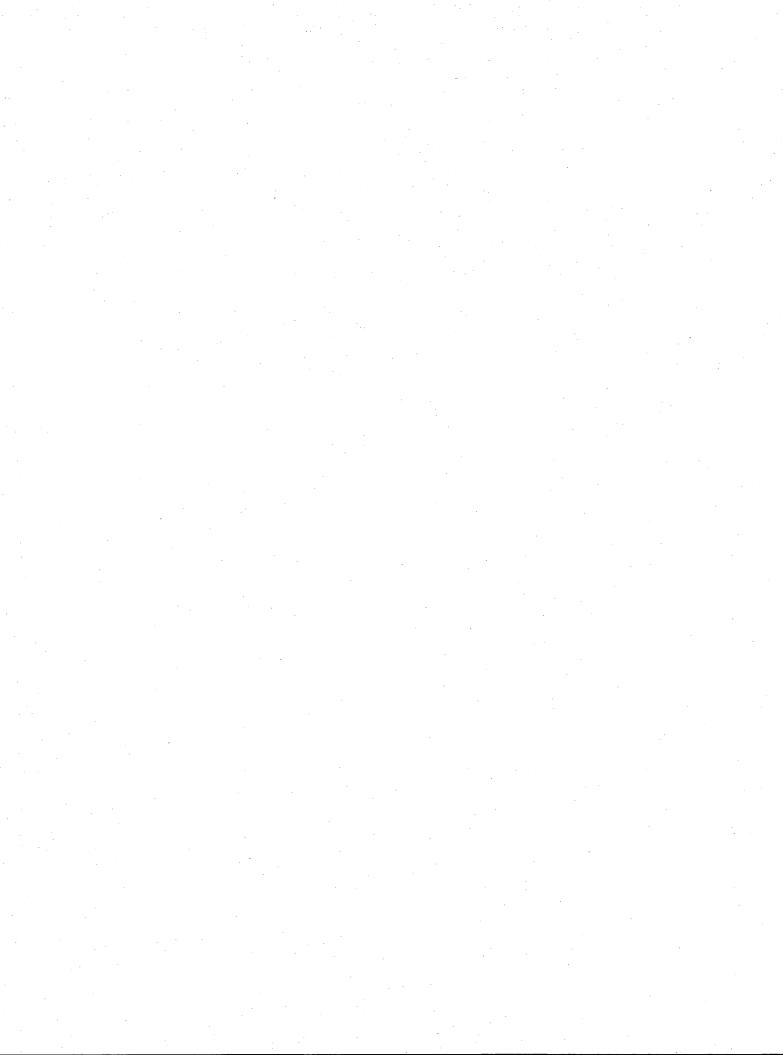
Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the State from requiring the governing body of a county or a municipality to provide any new or expanded program or service without full State funding.

The resolution, as amended by the committee, specifically proposes to amend Article VIII, Section II of the State Constitution by adding a new paragraph which:

- (1) would prohibit, as of July 1, 1995, the State government from mandating the governing body of any county or municipality to provide any new program or service, or to expand any existing program or service, unless the State provides full funding for the net additional cost directly required for the actual implementation of that program or service; but
- (2) would permit the enactment of a law that mandates the governing body of a county or municipality to provide a new of expanded program or service for which the State does not provide the required full funding for the net additional costs directly required for the actual implementation of that program or service if that new or expanded program or service is:
  - (a) required by Federal law, rule, regulation or order;
- (b) required by any decision, order or ruling by any court of competent jurisdiction; or
- (c) is enacted with the approval of two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature.

The committee amended the resolution to remove the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution. It was the committee's belief that the clarifying language added to the proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section II made the amending of Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 6 unnecessary.

This resolution was prefiled for introduction in the 1994 session pending technical review. As reported, the resolution includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.





PAUL DIGAETANO

RICHARD H. BAGGER

CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN ALEX DECROCE GEORGE F. GEIST ROSE MARIE HECK MAUREEN OGDEN LEE A. SOLOMON WAYNE R. BRYANT, ESQ. WILLIAM J. PASCRELL, JR. ROBERT G. SMITH

## New Jersey State Tegislature

ASSEMBLY POLICY AND RULES COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, CN-068 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0068

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Assembly Policy and Rules Committee will hold a public hearing on the following legislation:

ACR-1 (1R) Haytaian/Geist Proposes constitutional amendment to prohibit State from requiring county or municipality to perform new or expanded program or service without full State funding.

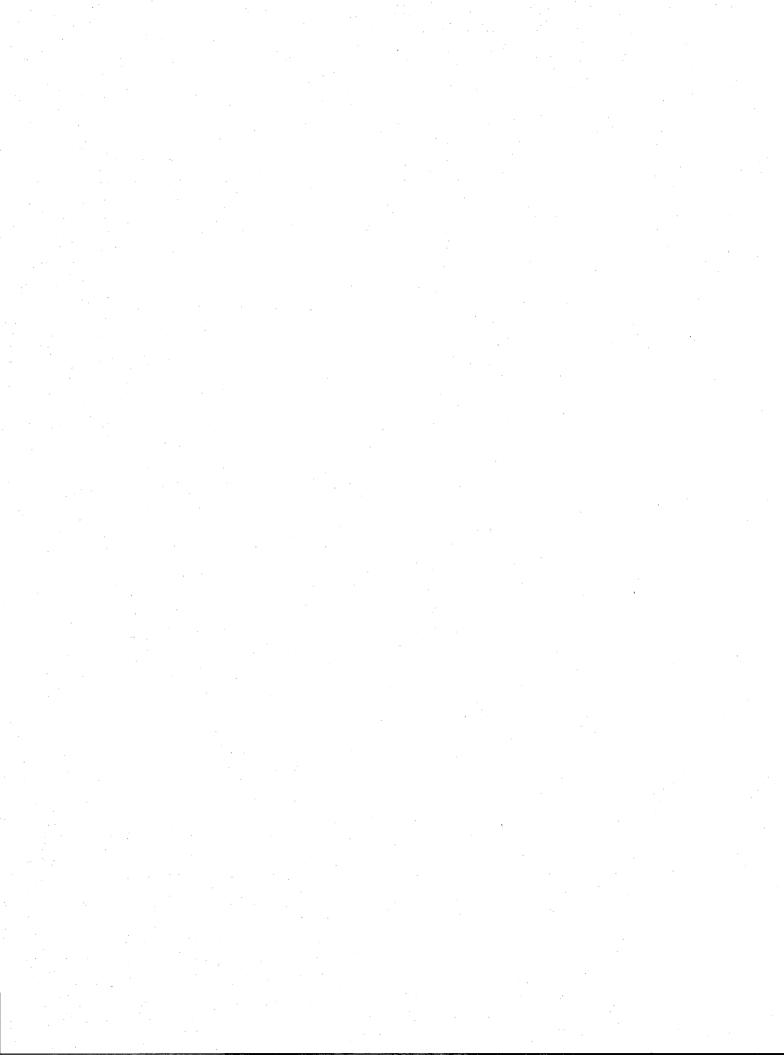
The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 2, 1994 at 10:00 AM in Room 319 of the State House, Trenton, New Jersey.

This public hearing has been ordered by the General Assembly under Rule 143 of the Rules of the General Assembly in compliance with the requirements of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the State Constitution, concerning proposed constitutional amendments.

The public may address comments and questions to David L. Sallach. Committee Aide, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Alice Murphy, secretary, at (609) 984-0231.

Issued 05/23/94

Assistive listening devices available upon 24 hours prior notice to the committee aide(s) listed above



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Statement submitted by Celeste Carpiano	8x

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ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL DIGAETANO (Chairman): Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the Assembly Policy and Rules Committee. I think everyone knows who I am, and I'm joined today by Assemblyman Williams.

We're meeting today pursuant to Rule No. 143 of the Rules of the General Assembly, in compliance with the requirements of Article 9, Paragraph 1 of the State Constitution, which requires that a public hearing be held on any concurrent resolution proposing an amendment to the State Constitution prior to the resolution going to third reading.

The subject of this constitutionally required public hearing today is ACR-1, sponsored by Speaker Chuck Haytaian and Assemblyman George Geist, which proposes a State mandate/State pay amendment to the State Constitution.

Briefly recapped, we released ACR-1 unanimously on May 2, and it was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it also passed without opposition, on May 11. It was given second reading and laid on the desks in both Houses on May 12.

If passed by both Houses and approved by the voters of New Jersey, ACR-1 will finally put to an end the practice of the State passing unfunded mandates on to local and county governments, and forcing them to pick up the tab. Generally, this practice allows the State to take credit for a program, but puts local and county governments in the bind of either raising property taxes or reducing services to finance this program.

We are in an era of frugal government. The time has come to stop passing the buck and force all levels of government to assume full fiscal responsibility for their actions.

Before calling our first witness, I'll ask Assemblyman Williams if he has opening comments.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAMS: I would just as soon move it along, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, I agree with this, so--

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: Sure, okay. Thank you.

We have first, Bill Dressel, from the League of Municipalities.

Good morning, Bill.

G. DRESSEL, JR.: Good morning, Mr. WILLIAM Chairman, Assemblyman Williams. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here. The League ο£ Municipalities wholeheartedly supports ACR-1. The League supports the passage of this, which would require the State to pay for mandated programs and services. The League has been on record for several decades supporting this constitutional amendment. We have previously appeared before your Committee giving testimony.

Copies of my printed remarks for today and previous testimony have been submitted to you and your staff. We have also submitted to your staff the results of a survey that we recently conducted regarding the impact of State-imposed mandates on local governments -- kind of a snapshot of what mandates would be.

Again, we've come a long way. I view this meeting today as a capstone of the previous discussions that have taken place, applaud you for moving it, and thank you for the opportunity to continue to have the League involved in this worthwhile effort. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: Thank you, Bill.

George, do you have any questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAMS: None.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: None. Thank you.

Celeste Carpiano, from the New Jersey Association of Counties.

We thank you, also, for your written testimony.

C E L E S T E C A R P I A N O: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Assemblyman Williams.

The New Jersey Association of Counties also has testified before you in strong support of ACR-1. I have distributed to your staff copies of the testimony.

We believe that unfunded mandates are nothing more than taxation without representation. We have for many years, also, been in strong support that would eliminate unfunded mandates. We believe that in the interest of good government, responsibility and accountability for programs should be assigned to the same level of government.

We have polled all our counties, and have over 100 unfunded mandates, which I will be distributing to you.

We appreciate this opportunity, and we urge you to please release the bill.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: Thank you very much.

Assemblyman, any questions of Celeste?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAMS: None.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: Thank you, Celeste.

Is there anyone else here who wishes to testify on ACR-1, for or against, but who has not yet signed up? (no response)

Seeing none, unless you have any closing comments, I'll bring the meeting to a close.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAMS: I think we're all in support of this measure, and I think we're going to move it along as quickly as possible.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiGAETANO: Thank you. This hearing is now adjourned.

(HEARING CONCLUDED)



APPENDIX



# Legislative Viewpoint



JOHN E. TRAFFORD. Executive Director WILLIAM G. DRESSEL, JR., Asst. Executive Director JON R. MORAN, Senior Legislative Analyst CHRISTOPHER CAREW. Legislative Analyst HELEN YELDELL, Legislative Analyst

June 2, 1994

Re: ACR-1, as amended STATE MANDATE/STATE PAY

Dear Members of Assembly Policy & Rules Committee:

The League of Municipalities wholeheartedly supports passage of ACR-1, as amended, which will require the State to pay for mandated programs/services.

For several decades, the League has called for the enactment of a constitutional amendment which would prohibit the State from requiring local governments (by law or regulation) to perform any new or expanded program or service without full State funding.

We applaud the sponsors for initiating this proposal to address this issue of such paramount importance. Our State needs a Constitutional amendment that requires State government to pay for its programs out of its own general fund. Municipal officials have already waited too long for such a provision.

This initiative will put in place a permanent solution to a consistently mounting municipal problem. That problem is the costliness and proliferation of statutorily mandated programs and services. These mandates force municipalities to address a "laundry list" of State priorities before -- and sometimes at the expense of -- priorities determined by responsive and locally elected governing bodies.

The Legislature, through mandates, has found a way to pass the costs of these programs onto the local jurisdiction, which in turn, is forced to pass the economic cost onto the local property taxpayer. In other words, local officials are forced to raise revenues to finance State mandated programs and services. Ultimately, the taxpayer will still foot the bill.

Under this proposed amendment the necessary funds must be provided by the same level of government which orders the expenditure. And it will, for the first time, be obvious to the taxpayer which level of government is the cause of each increase in governmental spending.

(over)

This is an honest and responsible initiative, which is long overdue. ACR-1 will force the Legislature and the governor to consider the costs as well as the benefits, of every proposed mandate. Local officials should never again be forced to choose between increased taxes or cuts in other services, in order to find the resources to pay for State mandates.

Here ACR-1 will re-unite <u>responsibility and accountability</u>. And that union is the cornerstone of a truly just and effective representative democracy.

Again, the issue of legislative mandates and their impact on the local real estate property taxpayer has been a major concern to the League for decades. This issue, has remained unaddressed until recently, and we hope its time has come.

Thus, the League support this measure and urges you to vote for its passage in the Legislature.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.

Assistant Executive Director

WGD: jg



(609) 695-3481

JOHN E. TRAFFORD, Executive Director

WILLIAM G. DRESSEL, JR., Asst. Executive Director

June 2, 1994

Members of the Assembly Policy and Rules Committee

In an effort to provide information on state mandates on municipal governments, specifically, the types of mandates and their cost, the League conducted a mandates survey among its members. Attached is a copy of the results.

The League has identified several state mandates that have imposed substantial costs on municipal governments. Our survey was sent to all 567 municipalities with a request for costs incurred in relation to each mandate for the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. From the sample we received, which includes state-wide data from rural, suburban, and urban municipalities of all sizes, we have extrapolated that state imposed mandates cost New Jersey municipalities a minimum of 145,958,910 (adjusted) a year.

Again, this only represents a selected sampling of state mandates and the information illustrates the need for advocating a state mandate state pay constitutional amendment.

We are hopeful that this information will be helpful in understanding the cost implications of mandated costs on the local property taxpayer.

Very truly yours

William G. Dressel, Jr. Assistant Executive Director

WGD/mle

NUMBER MA	ANDATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT
1 FIF	DEARM OUNTIESCATION	ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	\$2,435,170
2 91	1	NJSA 52:17C-6	£4,740,904
	ONSTRUCTION OF JAIL	NJAC 10A:34	5678.400
	UDIO-VISUAL-MONITORING	NJAC-10A:34	\$1,347,43
510	VENILE DETENTION CELLS	NJAC 10A:34	\$126.20
	HOUR PHYSICAL	NJAC 10A:34	\$56,89
	REPARATION OF ACCIDENT	NJ STATE POLICE	\$2,498,72
	NIEORM CRIME REPORTS	NJSA 52:178-5.1	31,420,24
	ERTIFICATION OF RADAR	NJ STATE POLICE	3361.19
	ERTIFICATION OF	NU STATE POLICE	\$327.17
	EGAL DEFENSE FOR POLICE	NUSA 40:14-155	\$1,022.\$
	EW-OFFICER TRAINING	NJSA 52:17B-66	\$2.117.6
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<u></u>	PUBLIC RIGHT TO KNOW	NJAC 7:27	

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	20 SLUDGE REMOVAL	NJSA 13:1E-1 ET SEQ. NJAC 7:26		\$8,658,407
•	21 WATER TESTING	NJSA 58:12A-1 ET SEQ. NJAC 7:10	<u> </u>	\$1,799,966
	22 HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN-UP	NJSA 13:1K-6 ET SEQ. NJAC 26B, 26C, 26E		\$2,283,268
	23 INSTALLATION OF VAPOR RECOVERY GAS PUMPS	NJSA 25:2C-1 ET SEQ NJAC 7:27		\$570.680
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	27 DRAINAGE	NUSA 58:16A-50 ET SEO. NUAC 7:13		\$1,887,109
		NJSA 58:10A-1 ET SEQ. NJAC 7:14A		
	28 ANIMAL CONTROL COSTS	NUSA 23:4-63 ET SEQ. NUAC 7:25		\$4,794,867
	29 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADMINISTRATION	NJSA 52:27D-311		\$4,494,615
	30 TRAINING COSTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF	NJSA 40A:9-133 ET SEQ.	. •	\$112.901
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-TOTAL WITH 1994 RECYCLING GRANTS REMOVED: (\$5,339,646)

\$145,958,910

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# CELESTE CARPIANO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

# Testimony in Support of ACR-1 (Haytaian/Geist) June 1, 1994

Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly Policy and Rules Committee, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak for the New Jersey Association of Counties on a topic that is of vital interest and importance to us: State Mandated programs for which no state funding is provided.

NJAC firmly supports ACR-1 sponsored by Speaker Haytaian and Assemblyman Geist, which would eliminate this unfair burden on our county taxpayers.

Unfunded mandates on both the state and national levels are nothing more than taxation without representation. Counties are told to implement new programs and services but are not given sufficient funding with which to work. We feel strongly that, in the interest of good government, responsibility and accountability for programs should be assigned to the same level of government.

Because of unfunded mandates, county and municipal governing bodies are forced to either increase taxes or decrease services that we feel are important to our constituency.

Obviously, the public does not want higher taxes. When mandates are foisted on us, we are the ones who have to make the tough choices. We are the level of government that is closest to the people, in that we provide a great deal of face-to-face services that our residents need.

Also, county officials know just how unfunded mandates can impact county finances. I am sure that many of you here today can relate to this difficulty, too, as members and former members of county or municipal governing bodies.

After polling all 21 counties for the unfunded state mandates that effect their budgets, I would like to bring to your attention several examples that they have documented.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

One of the best -- or worst -- examples of an unfunded state mandate is the community college system.

Please don't misunderstand. We believe that our community colleges are invaluable institutions. But legislation that was passed in 1964 - 30 years ago - called for the equitable funding of community colleges by the state, county and tuition. However, New Jersey is paying only 14% toward its community colleges, instead of the 41% that is required by law. This is unfair, and has put an unduly large tax burden on local citizens in the counties where these schools are located.

#### **COLLEGES & VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS**

For both community colleges and county vocational schools, a Board of Estimate each year certifies to the Board of Freeholders the amount of funds necessary; by state statute, we are required to provide that level of funding.

For example, in 1994 in Somerset County, the freeholders issued a directive for a 9% reduction in funding for all agencies. The Raritan Valley College Board of School Estimate chose not to comply.

We do not believe that this is appropriate. The state is supposed to be a partner in these institutions; however, they retain the right to determine their contribution yet do not allow the freeholders the same right. The statutes for county colleges and vocational schools should be reviewed.

### **COURT SYSTEM**

The Superior Court system has long been another prime example of a state mandate that has been funded by counties. We greatly appreciate the state's recent efforts to take over most of the day-to-day expenses of the courts starting next year. However, since this changeover will occur gradually, the counties will continue to fund many court expenses.

Again, we certainly do not dispute the need for an efficient, effective court system. But when the state tells counties it must have certain levels of funding each year for the court system, that's taxation without representation.

#### JAIL

Often counties are required by the state to build new jails. Yes, we sorely need them but the cost of the projects are inflated by state mandated requirements such as recreation and dining areas for inmates.

#### **HUMAN SERVICES**

There are numerous examples of state mandated human services programs that must be financed by county taxpayers' money. They include:

- the establishment and operation of the Adjuster's Office, an Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center, a Mental Health Administration Unit, alcohol and drug abuse services and a Human Services Advisory County;
- the provision of a Personal Attendant Services Program;
- the functions of the Office of Youth Services and Office on Aging.

  On a yearly basis, these services can cost a county approximately \$1 million or more to provide.

### OTHER EXAMPLES

We are also required by state law to have a Department of Weights and Measures to provide 1/3 of the funding for the Cooperative Extension Services, to partially fund a Soil Conservation Services, to provide a County Medical Examiner's Office and to certify investigators in the Consumer Affairs Office.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize NJAC's support of Governor Whitman's efforts to streamline state government and balance the state budget. The intergovernmental system works best when each level of government works together. Your pressures are no different than ours. We share a common bond - your taxpayers are our taxpayers. We have a responsibility to do the best we can to provide necessary services for the best possible price.

Let's work together and share that responsibility. If there is no state money available for programs initiated by the Legislature, then the implementation of these programs by counties or municipalities should be optional - not mandatory.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. We urge you to favorably release ACR-1 from committee today.