

Calling On The New York State Governor And State Legislature To End The Practice Of Passing Costs For State Programs To County Government And Our Property Taxpayers

The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Lomita and Legislators Cahill, Dart, Gregorius, Provenzano, Zimet, Cummings, Gerentine and Noonan) offers the following:

WHEREAS, unfunded state mandates shift the responsibility and the cost of implementing programs from the state to the local level and force localities to cut existing services or raise property and other local taxes to achieve the additional requirements, and

WHEREAS, state government leaders have acknowledged that high property taxes are a problem for residents and businesses in New York State, making the state less attractive and less competitive, and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Budget Commission states that local taxes in New York State are 79% higher than the national average and that state laws result in high local tax burdens, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Foundation, based in Washington D.C., reports that nine of the top ten counties nationwide in median real estate taxes as a percentage of median home value are in New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has formed a bipartisan commission to make recommendations on a package of reforms that gets at the root causes of what is driving taxes so high, including looking at unfunded mandates on both school districts and municipalities, proposals on how to make our tax relief system fairer to the middle class taxpayer, and a proposal for a fair and effective cap to hold the line on school district property taxes, with said commission due to report its findings in June of this year, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has previously recommended that state policy makers should strive to forge a stronger state/local partnership by eliminating unnecessary state requirements, make the state more responsive by requiring state payment of mandates it deems essential and to establish alternative methods for performance and implementation, and

WHEREAS, while awaiting the recommendations of the Governor's commission on ways to reduce the high property taxes in New York State, state policy makers should refrain from making the problem worse by shifting costs from the state's 2008-2009 budget to county budgets and our property taxpayers, and

Resolution No. 124 April 9, 2008

Calling On The New York State Governor And State Legislature To End The Practice Of Passing Costs For State Programs To County Government And Our Property Taxpayers

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed this legislative initiative with a majority of members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that NYSAC calls on the New York State Governor and State Legislature to end the practice of passing costs for state programs to county government and our property taxpayers, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor David Paterson, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper,

and moves its adoption

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Donaldson, Gerentine and Kraft)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
UNKNOWN

0419