



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Ritchie Releases Second Mandate Relief Report

PATTY RITCHIE March 7, 2012

| ISSUE: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, FINANCE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Cost-Saving Ideas from Local Leaders to be Presented to Statewide Panel Thursday; Citizens Urged to Submit Your Ideas

***** [CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN CITIZENS' MANDATE RELIEF IDEAS](#) *****

State Senator Patty Ritchie today released a second report by her locally based “Mandate Relief Working Group”—and announced creation of a new website to allow taxpayers to submit their own ideas to cut government spending and eliminate costly unfunded mandates.

***** [CLICK HERE OR BELOW TO VIEW THE MANDATE RELIEF WORKING GROUP REPORT](#)**

The Working Group’s report includes seven recommendations to provide relief to school districts and school taxpayers, and follows an earlier report that focused on saving money for municipal governments.

Senator Ritchie said she will present both reports to the statewide Mandate Relief Council, which is headed by Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy and is meeting Thursday in Watertown. Senator Ritchie will attend the meeting as one of two State Senate designees on the Council.

“An important part of providing relief to taxpayers is reining in the cost of government through streamlining, greater efficiency and reexamining mandated programs.” Senator Ritchie said. “We’ve already made progress, saving more than \$125 million by slashing mandates in the last year alone, but I’ve turned to the experts—local government and school district leaders who are in the trenches every single day—to help us find more ways to save.”

“This second report by my locally based Mandate Relief Working Group includes specific ideas to save taxpayer money. Even more importantly, it’s showing that by engaging local communities and their

leaders, we can find ways to rein in government spending.”

Several of the proposals contained in the two reports have been drafted into legislation, and some have already been approved by the Senate.

Copies of both the schools report and the original report of the Working Group can be found below. [You can also CLICK HERE to submit your own Citizens' Mandate Relief Ideas to the Working Group.](#)

Senator Ritchie’s Mandate Relief Working Group and the statewide Mandate Relief Council seek to continue the work, begun last year, to provide relief to hardworking New York taxpayers by slashing mandates.

In December, Governor Cuomo signed into law a series of mandate relief measures that will save taxpayers over \$125 million annually, in addition to Medicaid reforms adopted last year that will permanently rein in the costs of that program.

Members of Senator Ritchie’s Mandate Relief Working Group include Town of Clayton Supervisor **Justin Taylor** and St. Lawrence County Legislator **Kevin Acres**, who are co-chairs; **Peter FitzRandolph**, and ex-county legislator; Jefferson County Legislator **Scott Gray**; Fulton City Schools Superintendent **William Lynch**; South Jefferson Schools Superintendent **Jamie Moesel**; Oswego Town Supervisor **Vicki Mullen**; Village of Lacona Mayor **Peggy Manchester**, and **Jack Zeh**, the Heuvelton School Board President.

The statewide Mandate Relief Commission is meeting in Watertown, after holding similar meetings in Old Westbury, Utica, New Paltz, Albany and Lake Placid. The Council is currently scheduling additional public events in the Southern Tier, Western NY and the Finger Lakes regions.