



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Terrence Murphy

## Senator Murphy tackles unfunded mandates

TERRENCE MURPHY March 21, 2017

| ISSUE: **MANDATE RELIEF, UNFUNDED MANDATES**



ALBANY, NY – Unfunded mandates continue to be a topic of conversation and great concern for local municipalities and school districts. The New York State Association of Counties cite more than 40 programs that New York State law require counties to implement and pay for. Today, the New York State Senate passed legislation to prevent local governments and taxpayers from being burdened by unfunded mandates. Legislation (S1347) sponsored by Senator Terrence Murphy and Senator Rich Funke, will help prevent possible property tax increases or cuts to existing services by requiring the state to fund mandated programs that

come at an additional cost for municipalities or school districts.

Senator Murphy said, “This marks the second year in a row the Senate has passed this important measure to protect local taxpayers from Albany’s unfunded mandate madness. With five years of experience in local government, I saw firsthand the crushing impact unfunded mandates can have on our ability to function. Today’s measure was a common sense piece of legislation that puts the onus on the State to pay for its mandated services.”

Senator Funke said, “The spending that Albany mandates on local governments and school districts is the top reason our property taxes are among the highest in the nation. Incredibly, just a handful of state mandates ate up nearly every property tax dollar collected in New York last year. Since our unfunded mandate prohibition passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, I hope the Assembly will also act to protect local taxpayers and quality of life services as soon as possible.”

State-mandated programs place unnecessary stress on taxpayers and local officials for services they don’t control. When the state sets local priorities and forces municipal taxing decisions by mandating services, programs, and standards, many local governments and school districts are forced to make difficult choices such as increasing property taxes or cutting back on other services and programs.

This measure prevents future unfunded mandates from negatively affecting local finances and driving up property taxes by requiring the state to assume the costs. It would make it easier for local governments to stay within the highly successful property tax cap and provide further relief to local taxpayers.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.

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## 2017-S1347

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to requiring the state to fund certain programs mandated for municipal corporations and school districts

January 09, 2017

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by Rich Funke

Do you support this bill?

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