



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL FORUM FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

MANDATES RELIEF FOR TOWNS AND CITIES

March 2, 2010

- The CT Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has reported that **there are currently over 1,200 state mandates on towns and cities.**
- Mandates relief must be a critical part of resolving the property tax crisis.
- The Governor recently proposed numerous mandates reform measures, including those found in HB 5031:
 - Enacting a statutory prohibition to **prohibit the enactment of new unfunded or underfunded state mandates without a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly.**
 - Permitting municipalities to **post certain information online, rather than publishing such information in the newspaper;**
 - Allowing municipalities to transmit certain information to **state agencies electronically;**
 - Removing the mandate that municipalities **store and collect the possessions of evicted residential tenants;**
 - Limit to 15 years the **obligation to retain certain municipal records;**
 - Modify the **treble damages provision regarding zoning enforcement officers' issuance of zoning violations;**
 - Modifying the **Raise the Age** legislation regarding release provisions; and
 - Postpone the effective date of the in-school suspension mandate;**
 - Provide for **municipal pension reform** through development of an alternative, MERF C, benefits plan
- Other ideas for mandates relief, and an estimate of savings where possible, can be found in the **"How To Spell Relief" report from CCM**, which is in your packet.
- The "State Grants and Mandates" subcommittee of the "MORE Commission" has recommended a **three-year moratorium on the imposition of new unfunded or underfunded mandates** without a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly.
- **Immediate savings can be had by suspending all mandates for three years, unless needed to comply with court orders or federal law.**

- Over the past few years **the General Assembly has rejected numerous proposed new mandates** that would have collectively imposed huge costs on property taxpayers.

- **Please remain vigilant.** Even this year, mandates are being proposed, including a potentially huge one (\$200-\$400 million) to install seat belts on school buses – a well-intentioned proposal which may not bring about the protections proponents want.