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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUB-COMMITTEE
CHAIR ON TOWNSHIPS
TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS
NORTHWEST CAUCUS
VETERANS AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: Representative Guy Travaglio

DATE: April 9, 2002

RE: Legislation Establishing a Mandate Review Advisory Board within the Local Government Commission

Government mandates can pose a particular problem for local governments and school districts in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Too often, mandates require action by local political subdivisions and school districts without supplying money to pay for the programs. Local elected officials then have no choice but to raise taxes to pay for the programs, some of which are popular and needed, some of which may not be.

I believe strongly in mandate relief. I also believe that we need accurate data to measure the effect of various mandates and whether they truly serve a public need. Therefore, I will soon introduce legislation to establish a Mandate Review Advisory Board within the Local Government Commission.

The board would review and make recommendations to the General Assembly on the efficacy of current and future mandates. The General Assembly must receive a preliminary report within a year after the act's effective date. That report shall fix a timetable for when the General Assembly will receive a final report on existing mandates.

All members of the Mandate Review Advisory Board would serve two years. The members would be made up of:

- ✓ Four members appointed by the Local Government Commission chair, two of whom will be state senators, one representing the majority party and one representing the minority party; two of whom will be state House members, one representing the majority party and one representing the minority party.
- ✓ Seven members with one member to be appointed by each of the following groups: the Pennsylvania League of Cities, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association.
- ✓ The secretaries of the departments of Education, Environmental Protection, Health, Public Welfare, Labor and Industry, Community and Economic, Transportation, all ex-officio members.

Please call my office at 7-7686 if you wish to cosponsor this legislation. Thanks.

From the Desk of Cameron Texter

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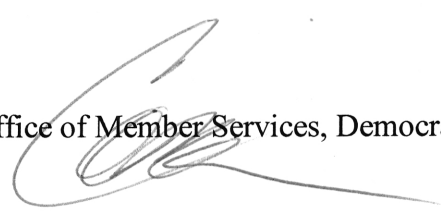
MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2002

TO: Honorable Guy Travaglio
Fred Vero

FROM: Cameron Texter, Senior Research Analyst, Office of Member Services, Democratic Caucus.

RE: Mandate Board



As per a request from Fred Vero, I had the Legislative Reference Bureau draft the following bill. This legislation is a redraft of Senate Bill 291. The legislation establishes a Mandate Review Advisory Board within the Local Government Commission. The legislation requires the commission to:

- ✓ Work with the Mandate Review Advisory Board to work with the commission on recommendations to the General Assembly on the termination, continuation or revision of existing or future mandates.
- ✓ Work with the Legislative Data Processing Center to create an information system to compile, organize and use the data collected on mandates.
- ✓ Hire and supervise the staff necessary to do the job in analyzing existing and future mandates and in making recommendations for their usefulness.

All members of the Mandate Review Advisory Board would serve two years. The members would be made up of:

- ✓ Four members appointed by the Local Government Commission chair, two of whom will be state senators, one representing the majority party and one representing the minority party; two of whom will be state House members, one representing the majority party and one representing the minority party.
- ✓ Seven members with one member to be appointed by each of the following groups: the Pennsylvania League of Cities, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association.
- ✓ The secretaries of the departments of Education, Environmental Protection, Health, Public Welfare, Labor and Industry, Community and Economic, Transportation, all ex-officio members.

The board, with help from the commission, would:

- ✓ Review current laws that place mandates on local governments and school districts.
- ✓ Hold hearings, take testimony and conduct investigation on the effect of mandates.

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- ✓ Obtain information from the members' groups on mandates.
- ✓ Make recommendation to the commission on the continuation, revision or termination of specific mandates on local governments and school districts.

All Commonwealth agencies would have to cooperate with the board. The board must issue a preliminary report within one year after the act's effective date. None of the board members would be paid for their work, but all would receive expense reimbursement. The commission would have a special line item in the state budget for the board's costs.

In addition to the legislation, you will find attached a cosponsor memorandum for the legislation.

Please review the legislation and the cosponsor memo. Please notify me of any additions, corrections or other changes that you might want to either document. Otherwise, distribute the cosponsor memo to all members and then introduce the legislation once you feel comfortable with the number of cosponsors you receive.

Please call me at 2-9971 or e-mail me at ctexter@pahouse.net or ctexter@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need additional information or assistance. As always, I thank you very much for your time and attention.

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ATTACHMENTS