

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation & Finance**
3 **Resolution #01**

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5 **RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE**
6 **TO ENACT MANDATE RELIEF AND OTHER LOCAL FLEXIBILITY**
7 **MEASURES**

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

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14 **WHEREAS**, state policy makers should strive to forge a stronger state/local
15 partnership by eliminating unnecessary state requirements, make the state more
16 responsive by requiring state payment of mandates it deems essential and to establish
17 alternative methods for performance and implementation; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, by providing new flexibility aimed at reducing local fiscal burdens,
20 permitting greater administrative flexibility and encouraging local cooperation, the state
21 can assist local government officials in managing and minimizing increases in their
22 operating budgets; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, over the years a host of positive mandate relief measures have been
25 proposed that would offer significant benefit to localities, including repeal of the WICKS
26 law, binding arbitration reform and the alignment of judgment award standards with the
27 private sector; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, while these mandate relief measures have no budgetary impact to
30 the state, they have not been seriously considered during the legislative process; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, while these are not complete solutions to the mandate burden
33 impacting local taxpayers, they do represent positive actions that will help localities and
34 provide needed opportunities for efficiency and cost savings:

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36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State
37 Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to enact
38 mandate relief and other local flexibility measures; and

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40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
41 Counties shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, the New
42 York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.