



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

New York State Association of Counties
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Stephen J. Acquario, Esq., Executive Director

Memorandum in Support

S.7408A (Young)/A.10152A (Gunther)

AN ACT to amend the county law, in relation to the payment of salaries for certain district attorneys; and making an appropriation therefor

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has reviewed the above referenced legislation and supports its enactment into law.

This bill would reimburse counties for the State mandated District Attorney (DA) salary increase in 2016 and beyond. Earlier this year the NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation voted to recommend an increase in state judge's salaries in 2016 and 2018. This recommendation became law on April 1st.

Under state law, DA's salaries are linked to judicial salaries. That is why, in the past, when the State has adjusted the judicial salaries, it has reimbursed counties for the increase in DA salaries through the State Budget. Unfortunately, the 2016-17 State Budget did not cover these increases.

County officials perform many essential public functions of state and local concern. Perhaps no county service is more essential than ensuring law and order in our communities, which is upheld by our local prosecutors. DAs are entitled to fair and just compensation pursuant to state law for fulfilling the state constitutional and statutory duties related to the enforcement of the State Penal Law. However, any state mandated increase to a local government official's salary, as a matter of equity and fairness, must be met by the State.

While \$1.6 million may seem minor in the face of a \$150 billion state budget, it amounts to a significant portion of a county's allowable tax growth under the state-imposed property tax cap, and state reimbursement should have been included in the State Budget. This bill corrects that oversight.

It is for the above mentioned reasons that NYSAC supports the enactment of this legislation.

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), founded in 1925, is a bi-partisan municipal association representing the counties of New York State. NYSAC is the only statewide association representing the interests of close to 5,000 elected and appointed county officials, including county executives, legislators, supervisors, administrators, commissioners and other county employees who deliver essential services to the public.

TO: Senate, Assembly
PC May 31, 2016