



Legislative Update



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Summary of Governor's 3/1/10 Deficit Mitigation Plan As It Affects Municipalities

(CCM, 3/2/10)

Governor Rell yesterday released a new "deficit mitigation" proposal. Below are details of how it affects municipalities.

Mid-year (FY 09-10) Reductions

Suspend Home CT program	\$1,777,602
Neighborhood Youth Centers	\$1,139,391
School-based Health Clinics	\$1,044,064
Regional Planning Organizations	\$ 149,000

Reductions for Next Year – FY 10-11

\$45 million in unspecified cuts in municipal aid

Proposed Mandates Relief

(Previously proposed in budget)

- Posting of certain notices on the internet rather than newspapers
- Allow electronic transmittal of information by municipalities to state agencies
- Eliminate responsibility to collect and store possessions of evicted tenants
- Delay in-school suspension mandate
- Eliminate treble damages penalty for ZEO enforcement
- Delay "raise the age" requirements
- Create a new municipal pension plan within MERF
- Prohibit new unfunded mandates without 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly

(New proposals)

- Allow municipalities/boards of education to petition state Board of Education to suspend mandates and regulations until 2014, with Board reporting then as to which should be eliminated

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- Allow municipalities to petition OPM for relief from certain specified mandates, such as
 - Update of local plans of conservation and developments
 - Delay in wastewater treatment testing and removal requirements, such as phosphorous testing
 - Move to two-year public safety recertification training rather than annual
 - Modify stormwater testing and similar requirements
 - OPM to report by end of 2014 on whether these should be eliminated altogether

- Allow same charges by municipalities as by the State for certain records
- Allow municipalities to pool to purchase health insurance
- Eliminate requirement of “public notice registry” for P+Z actions
- Exempt school and municipal employees from unemployment coverage during vacations, holidays or if part-time employees
- Changes in binding arbitration:
 - If rejection by 2/3 vote of legislative body, back to negotiation (same as State system)
 - Elimination of presumption by arbitrators to continue past practices or maintain contract provisions
 - Exclude future employees’ pension and retiree health insurance from arbitration process
 - Exclude consideration of fund balances below 15% from consideration of ‘ability to pay’
 - Require arbitrators to take into account current and future economic trends

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For more information please contact Jim Finley (jfinley@ccm-ct.org) or Gian-Carl Casa (gcasa@ccm-ct.org) or call (203) 498-3000.