



To: Unfunded Mandates Working Group

From: Rebecca Lambert, Municipal Issues Specialist
Amanda Campbell, Legislative Advocate

Date: October 9, 2024

Re: Unfunded Mandates Working Group Recommendations

What follows is a summary of the unfunded mandates working group meeting and their recommendations on how to proceed for the next legislative session.

The working group met on October 4th to review the feedback from the full LPC, and to decide which recommendations would be best to advance to the full committee for action. Staff shared the fiscal note process document from OFPR that describes the steps of the process in detail. In that document it was pointed out that the burden of proof is essentially put back on MMA to prove the bill is a mandate.

This sparked conversation about fiscal notes, what gets noticed, and the impacts of behind-the-scenes conversations. An example was given of a bill presented during the last session that included extra postage and staff for the Secretary of State's office, but did not reflect the cost to local government. It was determined by the group that a priority must be to draw awareness to how fiscal notes are missing the mark.

A creative and out of the box idea came from these discussions but will need assistance from you all to be successful.

Recommendations:

1. Create a one-pager to bring awareness to the fiscal impact to local government. Staff will develop an eye-catching one-pager that can be submitted to the committee of interest for bills that impact local government. When bills are presented to the LPC, we will need your help to tell real "stories" of how the presented bill will fiscally impact our members. Time will be of the essence.
2. Educational Opportunities. Continue to investigate educational opportunities with the goal of engaging legislators in conversations about state-local partnerships.