

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to oppose unfunded State mandates in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the number of unfunded State mandates on counties and cities have significantly increased during the past several years; and

WHEREAS, such mandates stem from State laws and regulations that require counties and cities to provide services and programs, and perform certain responsibilities without providing State funding for such services; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Tennessee are unaware of the impact of unfunded mandates on local services and their own local taxes; and

WHEREAS, risk assessment is an essential component to any cost-benefit analysis of mandates and should be included in all bills that impose mandates on counties and cities; and

WHEREAS, local officials across Tennessee support legislation that would relieve counties and cities of all obligation to carry out mandates arising from State law, regulation, or policy unless State funds are provided; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly oppose unfunded State mandates and should enact legislation that would relieve counties and cities of all obligation to carry out any mandates arising from State law, regulation, or policy unless State funds are provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislature is urged to include in any future mandates, a provision that requires State departments and agencies to provide scientifically sound and economically feasible assessments prior to the imposition of any new or revised mandate on local government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.