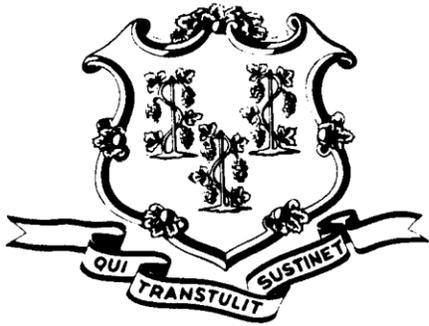


**CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**



***ANNUAL REPORT FOR
FISCAL YEAR
2009 - 2010***

A multi-jurisdictional agency of Connecticut state government

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October 2010

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Commission Membership

Officers

W. David LeVasseur, Chair	Designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management
Alice V. Meyer, Vice-Chair	Designee of the House Minority Leader

Members

Hon. Gale Slossberg	Designee of Senate President Pro Tempore
Hon. Christopher G. Donovan	Speaker of the House of Representatives, or designee
James O' Leary	Designee of Senate Minority Leader
Ron Harris	Designee of Commissioner of Education
Amy Marrella	Commissioner Environmental Protection, or designee
Joseph Oros	Designee of Commissioner of Economic and Community Dev.
Hon. Leo Paul	First Selectman of Litchfield
Hon. Kenneth A. Flatto	First Selectman of Fairfield
Scott Shanley	Town Manager of Manchester
Hon. Tim Stewart	Mayor of New Britain
Nancy Nickerson	Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
Virginia Seccombe, Ed.D.	Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
Linda Krause	Connecticut Association of Regional Planning Organizations
Adam D. Stolpen	Public Member, appointed by Governor
Mark Paquette	Public Member, appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
John T. Finkle	Public Member, appointed by Senate Minority Leader
Margaret Wirtenberg, Ph.D.	Public Member, appointed by House Minority Leader
James Finley	Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
Hon. Barbara Henry	designee of the Council of Small Towns

Vacancies

public member, appointed by Speaker of the House of Representatives
municipal official, town of 20,000 or less, nominated by COST and appointed by the Governor
municipal official, town of 60,000 or more, nominated by CCM and appointed by the Governor

Staff

Bruce Wittchen	Office of Policy & Management
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ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

ACIR STATUTORY MANDATE

The Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) is a 24-member agency created by the State of Connecticut in 1985 to study system issues between the state and its local governments, and to recommend solutions as appropriate. The makeup is designed to allow for open discussion across broad jurisdictional lines with a common interest in bettering local government.

As contained in Section 2-79a of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the role of ACIR is to: (1) serve as a forum for consultation between state and local officials; (2) conduct research on intergovernmental issues; (3) encourage and coordinate studies of intergovernmental issues by universities and others; and (4) initiate policy development and make recommendations to all levels of government.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

The Commission has had active participants from all of its constituencies throughout its existence. Commission membership is made up of representatives from the state legislative and executive branches as well as representatives of local government, education and the general public who attend the meetings and fully participate in the deliberations and decisions.

The Commission Chairman is W. David LeVasseur, Director of Municipal Finance Services and former Undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy Division (IGP) of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). He is also a former First Selectman of Killingworth and a former Chairman of the Lower Connecticut Valley Selectman's Association and of the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials.

The Commission Vice Chair is Alice V. Meyer, a former state representative appointed by the House Minority Leader. She is a former co-chairman of the legislature's Planning and Development Committee.

Administrative support for the day-to-day operations of the Commission is provided by Bruce Wittchen of OPM's Intergovernmental Policy Division.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission members contributed many hours of volunteer time to the State, both at meetings and through advice and consultation with the staff. Full Commission meetings are scheduled four-five times per year, at which staff work is reviewed, issues and potential recommendations are debated, and direction is given on future Commission activities. Also, the Commission establishes subcommittees for specific issues, which may involve additional meetings.

Commission membership is diverse in background and expertise, assuring lively debate with different viewpoints being analyzed and blended. The ACIR is the only ongoing entity where representatives of state and local government and the public regularly meet together to discuss the governance issues that are so important to each.

FY 2009-2010 COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

NEW STATE MANDATES ON MUNICIPALITIES REPORT - 2010

ACIR is required under Section 2-32c of the Connecticut General Statutes to submit a report to legislative leaders that lists each state mandate on municipalities enacted during the most recent regular or special session of the General Assembly. Staff followed all municipal-related legislation during the 2010 regular and special sessions of the General Assembly and compiled a listing of those bills that were enacted that create or reduce mandates. This report was adopted by the Commission in October 2010.

In 2010, the Legislature adopted six bills that ACIR considered more than minimal mandates; this is half as many as in 2009. The fourteen minimal mandates are eight more than in 2009, which had three more than in 2008. The three minimal mandates of 2008, however, had been the lowest number of minimal mandates since 2003. There were five mandates that are not specifically directed at municipalities, which is one less than in 2009. One of the long-standing objectives of the Commission has been the reduction of existing state mandates that will result in various levels of administrative and/or fiscal relief for municipalities

During the 2010 session, the legislature enacted three mandate reductions. That was eight fewer than in 2009, which had three fewer than in 2008, which was the highest number since ACIR started collecting this information. These bills include PA 10-171, *An Act Concerning Municipal Mandate Relief*, which removes the requirement in Sec. 1-225 of the General Statutes for a municipality to post the minutes of meetings on its website. It also eliminates the previous requirement in Sec. 47a-42 for a municipality to transport to a storage facility the possessions and personal property of evicted tenants and eliminates the requirement in Sec. 49-22 for a municipality to transport to a storage facility the possessions and personal property of people ejected from their property upon foreclosure.

***COMPENDIUM OF
STATUTORY &
REGULATORY
MANDATES REPORT***

CGS Section 2-79a requires the Commission, every fourth year starting in 1998, to submit to the General Assembly a report listing all state mandates on municipalities, categorizing them, providing their enactment dates along with a brief history, and describing the cost incurred by local governments in implementing these mandates. In the interim three years, the Commission must submit an update containing those statutory mandates changed in the previous legislative session, as well as any regulatory changes made during the year. In February 2010, the Commission published the report entitled: *A Compendium Of Statutory & Regulatory Mandates On Municipalities In Connecticut*. (See Publications section of this report.)

***ACIR SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE
STUDY OF FUTURE FISCAL
CHALLENGES FACING
CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPALITIES***

The ACIR selects topics for a major research project. In fiscal year 2008 the Commission decided to do a major study concerning the future fiscal challenges facing both the State and the municipalities. The Commission surveyed municipalities and found healthcare costs as the foremost concern of respondents. The Commission intended to hold a symposium in Spring, 2009, but it was deferred due to budgetary considerations and, to date, has not been scheduled.

2009-10 PUBLICATIONS

STATE MANDATES ON MUNICIPALITIES: ACTIONS IN 2010

In accordance with CGS Section 2-32c, staff reviewed every public and special act adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. All such acts that were determined to be state mandates on municipalities were included in this report. The report includes a description of each mandate, the committee of cognizance, a listing of all committees that reviewed the bill and a summary of the Office of Fiscal Analysis' municipal fiscal impact statement relating to the mandate. The report also includes a section on mandate reductions adopted by the General Assembly.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET ADOPTION EXPERIENCES IN CONNECTICUT 2010-11

Over the past decade, the ACIR has conducted annual surveys of all 169 Connecticut municipalities and 17 regional school districts to collect data regarding their budget adoption process.

Among the results of the 2010-11 survey are the following: 77 municipalities adopted their budget by means of a referendum; four municipalities required more than three ballots to adopt a budget, as compared to zero in 2009 and six in 2008. Twenty-four municipalities required 2 or more ballots to adopt their budget, four more than in 2009. 145 municipalities adopted their budgets on the first vote, four less than in 2009, but more than in any other recent year. Six municipalities did not adopt a budget until after the July 1 start of the new fiscal year, , which was three more than in 2009, but eleven fewer than 2008. All towns had adopted budgets by the time the 2010 report was published.

One regional school district adopted its budget by means of a district meeting. That was one less than in 2009, but 2009 was the first time since 2004 that any regional school district adopted a budget by means of a district meeting instead of by referendum. Sixteen of the seventeen districts adopted their budgets on the first ballot, the highest

number of the past past decade and every district adopted its budget before June 1, for the first time in the past decade.

This was the twentieth year that the Commission surveyed local governments. The Commission collected budget data in the survey again and hopes to use this data in the future. Establishing a database with the information derived from local officials, allows a more comprehensive examination of the local budget adoption process than was previously possible.

***A COMPENDIUM OF
STATUTORY AND
REGULATORY MANDATES ON
MUNICIPALITIES IN
CONNECTICUT***

The Commission, in accordance with CGS Section 2-79a, annually compiles a listing of state mandates on municipalities by category (statutory or regulatory), with a brief history of each mandate and the cost incurred by the municipalities. Legislation adopted in 1997 requires the Commission to compile a complete listing every fourth year (beginning in 1998) while in the interim three years it publishes a supplemental listing.

The 2010 Compendium included all the new statutory and regulatory mandates that were adopted in 2009 and before.