



CITY OF WASILLA
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Requested by:
Councilman Hjellen
Prepared by: Administration

RESOLUTION NO. WR95-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL URGING THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE STATE TO REIMBURSE MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE COST OF ANY NEW STATE-MANDATED PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council urges passage of legislation that would require a government agency unilaterally transferring responsibility for a program to a municipality or imposing regulations on a municipality to reimburse the municipality for the costs of the transferred responsibility or regulations; and

WHEREAS, state aid to municipalities in the form of Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing has been reduced by over 45 percent since FY86, while during the same period the overall state general fund budget has been reduced by only 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, along with the reduction in state financial assistance there have been increases in state-mandated programs that take the form of increased costs, new programs, and funding shortfalls for existing programs that are costly for municipalities to administer and implement; and

WHEREAS, legislation affecting municipalities is considered and passed by the Alaska State Legislature without the benefit of knowing its fiscal impact on local governments; and

WHEREAS, these mandated programs, funding shortfalls and shifts in responsibilities have required municipalities to increase local taxes and reduce services in order to balance their budgets and at the same time, the Legislature has ignored deficit spending while boasting that the state has no income or sales taxes and that operating budgets have been reduced; and

WHEREAS, costly state-mandated programs provide a significant additional disincentive for communities to incorporate; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures in 1987 recommended that state legislatures consider relaxing or eliminating costly requirements on local governments or assuming the cost of complying with the requirements.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wasilla City Council urges the Alaska Legislature and the Governor to pass legislation requiring the State of reimburse municipalities for the costs of any new state-mandated programs or regulations that increase the costs of local government operations.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 28th day of August, 1995.



John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjorie D. Harris, CMC
City Clerk

(Seal)