

SFY 2005-2006 Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

To: Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, Co-chair
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Co-Chair
Joint General Conference Committee

From: Senator Hugh Farley, Co-Chair
Member of Assembly Robert K. Sweeney
Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

Subject: Report of the Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

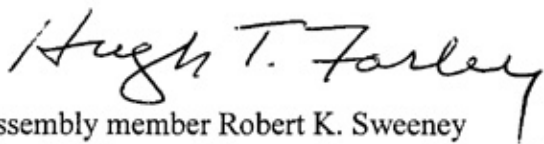
Date: 3/17/2005

The General Government and Local Assistance Subcommittee has had several productive meetings over the past week. The following report describes a general plan for the allocation of the subcommittee's target of \$185 million. A more detailed report will be filed subsequently with the General Conference Committee. This allocation reflects the agreement of the members of the General Government and Local Assistance Conference Subcommittee.

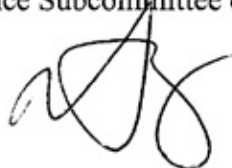
We reached agreement on General Fund spending levels and Article VII proposals for the agencies under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee. We have allocated the \$185 million General Fund target to address the following issues:

- Restoration of the State's pension system;
- Rejection of the STAR Plus tax credit;
- Adding funding to Audit and Control for school audits;
- Local Government Assistance;
- Financial Literacy Program in the Banking Department;
- Quality Communities; and,
- Civil Legal Services.

Senator Hugh Farley, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance



Assembly member Robert K. Sweeney
Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance



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From: Senator Hugh Farley, Co-Chair
Member of Assembly Robert K. Sweeney, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

Subject: Detailed Report of the Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

Date: 3/23/2005

On March 17, 2005, the General Government and Local Assistance Subcommittee completed its work and presented a general report to the General Conference Committee. We are pleased to present this report which provides detail on all the budget changes agreed to by the subcommittee, including the specific allocation of the subcommittee's target of \$185 million.

The subcommittee reached agreement on General Fund spending levels and Article VII proposals for the agencies under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee as follows:

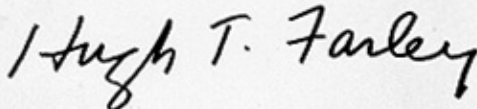
Division of the Budget	Consumer Protection Board
Office of the State Inspector General	State Commission on Lobbying
Division of Tax Appeals	Department of Tax and Finance
Office for Technology	Alcoholic Beverage Control
Department of Audit and Control	Banking Department
Insurance Department	Office of Regulatory Reform
Office of General Services	Board of Elections
Military and Naval Affairs	Department of State
Public Employees Relations Board	Executive Chamber

The subcommittee allocated the \$185 million General Fund target as follows:

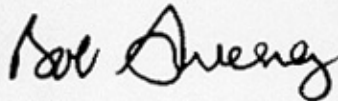
- **General State Charges:** \$153.3 million to restore funding for the State pension system;
- **Department of Audit and Control:** \$2.9 million for school audits in order to provide for increased financial accountability of school districts;
- **Department of Banking:** \$250,000 for a Financial Literacy Program;
- **Department of State:** \$4.6 million for Civil Legal Services and \$1 million for the Quality Communities Program;
- **Local Assistance:** \$7.95 million for: across-the-board increases for all cities, towns, and villages outside NYC; \$100,000 each for cities previously excluded from Supplemental Municipal Aid; a minimum increase threshold; and increases for certain towns and villages;
- \$8 million for the rejection of the STAR-plus tax credit; and,
- \$7 million for the rejection of changing the statutory rate of interest on judgments.

The subcommittee resolved the following Article VII issues:

- **Division of Military and Naval Affairs:** extend the tuition recruitment and incentive program for the State's organized militia until 2011;
- **Public Employment Relations Board:** deny merger of the Public Employment Relations Board with State Employment Relations Board;
- **Consumer Protection Board:** deny increase in maximum civil penalty for unfair business practices;
- **Office of General Services:** deny authorization for the use of owner controlled insurance; deny centralized purchasing expansion and energy service provisions;
- **E-911:** deny elimination of local E-911 program;
- **Mandate Relief Package** denied, to be discussed post-budget;
- **Local Governments** mergers amendments denied; Aid and Incentives to Municipalities language denied; local aid language amended to reflect new aid package;
- **Co-STAR and STAR Plus Programs** denied;
- **Division of Military and Naval Affairs:** authorization for deposits into the armory rental account – 2 year extension;
- **Office of General Services:** authorization for awarding emergency construction contracts – 2 year extension; authorization for up to 15 year real estate leases for State agencies – 5 year extension; authorization for centralized purchasing of commodities and services – 1 year extension;
- **Department of Civil Service:** Employee health insurance plan – 1 year extension;
- **Department of State:** Community Services Block Grant Program – 4 year extension; LLC expedited fees – 1 year extension; and,
- **Board of Elections:** reallocate \$20 million in State purposes money to local boards for poll worker training, voter education and the purchase of voting machines to be done pursuant to a Chapter of the Laws of 2005.



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