

SFY 2006-2007 Subcommittee on General Government

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

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

Date: 3/24/06

On March 24, 2006, the General Government and Local Assistance Subcommittee completed its work. 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 \$101.5 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:

Adirondack Park Agency	Office of Real Property Services
Consumer Protection Board	Office of the State Inspector General
Temporary State Commission on Lobbying	Division of Tax Appeals
Department of Tax and Finance	Department of Audit and Control
Alcoholic Beverage Control	Banking Department
Office of General Services	Office of Regulatory Reform
Department of State	Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Division of the Lottery	Division of the Budget

The subcommittee allocated the \$100 million General Fund target, plus the additional \$1.5 million allocation, as follows:

- **Department of State:** \$4.2 million for Civil Legal Services; \$1.2 million for the purchase of uniform fire code book sets for all code officials.
- **Local Assistance:** \$77.5 million across-the-board increases for all cities, towns and villages outside of NYC (a spreadsheet is attached);
- **Disaster Preparedness:** \$5.7 million to be allocated to counties and New York City for the development and improvement of disaster preparedness plans and equipment.
- **Alcoholic Beverage Control:** \$950,000 for new investigative positions and creation of a problem premises task force and \$5 million to fill a General Fund hole created by denying fees.
- **General State Charges:** \$3.5 million for the rejection of provisions related to the reassessment of State-owned land.
- **Office of General Services:** \$1.6 million for rehabilitation of Capitol hearing rooms.
- **Miscellaneous:** \$1.9 million (a chart listing those items is attached)

The subcommittee referred the following items to the General Conference Committee:

- **Video Lottery Terminals**
- **Insurance Department** appropriations for the Managed Care Assistance Program, the Forge Proof Pharmaceutical Prescription Program and the Traffic and Criminal Software Project (TraCS).
- **Albany Payment in Lieu of Taxes Provisions**
- **Help America Vote Act Provisions:**
 - \$7.7 million General Fund appropriation to meet 5 percent State match for HAVA
 - \$5 million in Special Revenue Fund for improved poll site accessibility
 - \$10 million from interest earned on Federal HAVA funds which is currently directed to State Operations to be reconsidered for use by localities for HAVA implementation.

The subcommittee resolved the following Article VII issues:

- **Local Governments** merger amendments denied; Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) awards program requirements clarified and strengthened; split the \$20 million appropriation for the Efficiency Incentive Grants evenly between Erie County and the City of Buffalo;
- **Mandate Relief Package** denied, to be discussed post-budget;
- **State Employee Benefit Dividends and Interest** authorize State health, dental and group life insurance funds to retain interest earned within the funds and reject the proposal permitting certain dividend reimbursements and interest to be spent without an appropriation;
- **Pension Reform Task Force** reject;
- **IT Professionals:** reject authorization for five-year temporary information technology professionals;
- **Procurement Stewardship Act:** extend the provisions of the Procurement Stewardship Act until June 30, 2007, and increase contract pre-approval thresholds for state agencies and the Office of General Services. Discretionary thresholds were increased for state agencies, the Office of General Services and preferences (small business concerns, certified MWBEs, remanufactured and recycled commodities);
- **Alcohol Beverage and Control:** reject the authorization for the State Liquor Authority to have general rule and regulation making ability; agree to the creation of a problem premises task force and modifications to the Alcohol Beverage Control Law related to the filing of electronic price schedules;
- **Consumer Protection Board:** extend the Motor Fuel Marketing Practices Act (MFMPA) for one year; deny the proposed payment of certain CPB investigative costs by the Attorney General;
- **E-911:** deny modifications to wireless surcharge provisions, to be discussed post-budget;
- **Office of General Services:** reject authorization for bulk purchasing of electricity;
- **Department of State:** extend the provisions of the Department of State expedited services program for one year, until March 31, 2007;
- **Public Authorities Budget Office:** deny the appropriation for the office to be within the Division of Budget (DOB);
- **Banking Department:** eliminate annual licensing and registration fees; allow the Department to retain investigation fees and raise such fees; and, increase certain maximum penalties for violations of the Banking Law;
- **Early Retirement Incentive** as proposed by the Governor is rejected.

- **Industrial Development Agency (IDA)** provisions denied, to be discussed post budget.
- **Insurance Department:** the Insurance special revenue fund was resolved as follows: \$300,000 for Commission to Review Insurance Mandates (pursuant to a chapter); 100,000 for Auto Insurance Rate Website.

Hugh T. Farley

Senator Hugh Farley, Co-Chair

Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/Local Assistance

Robert K. Sweeney

Assembly Member Robert K. Sweeney

Joint Conference Subcommittee on General Government/ Local Assistance

Additional Items

- **Division of Budget:** \$100,000 Council of State Governments Eastern Region
: \$10,000 Federal Funds Information for States Initiatives
- **Department of State:** \$359,000 domestic violence legal services
\$600,000 Firefighter Instructor Curriculum and Training Kits
- **Insurance Department:** \$800,000 rejection of fines and fees