



Issue Brief

MICHIGAN COUNTIES

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Lansing Center | DoubleTree Hotel | April 29 - May 1, 2024

Unfunded Mandates

Background

Article 9, Section 29 of the Michigan Constitution prohibits the state from mandating local governments provide new services or from increasing the level of mandates services that were required before 1978 without the proper funding for those mandates.

In 2009, the Legislative Commission on Unfunded Mandates determined that more than \$2.5 billion in services that can be measured and billions more that cannot be measured, are provided by counties and other units of local government at no cost to the state of Michigan.

For the past 15 years, we have seen numerous bills introduced to implement a process for State compliance with the Headlee amendment. House Bill 5353 is the most recent version of the legislation.



Message to Lawmakers

- Support for House Bill 5353 is critical. Funding any new mandates or an increase in services is critical. Most counties do not have the revenue necessary to take care of the mandated services they are currently responsible for.
- The bill will require the identification of additional mandated services and a cost estimate for those services prior to the third reading of the bills in the originating chamber.
- This approach will allow legislators to have prior knowledge of the potential costs and be able to weigh their support or opposition based on complete information and should prevent further displacement of the cost of mandates on to counties.

MAC's Efforts

- MAC has supported, and continues to support, legislation that would force legislative and state agency compliance with the unfunded mandate provisions of the Michigan Constitution.
- MAC testified in support of House Bill 5353 in March of this year and is encouraging movement of the bill out of House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee.