

2020 State Mandates Report

New Mandates on Counties Enacted in 2020

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One of the foremost challenges confronting local governments in Illinois is the annual enactment of new requirements uncoupled from the funding necessary to defray the additional costs.

All mandates are not created equal. Some are minor while others are far more substantial. Even so, the annual enactment of unfunded mandates that result from new laws creates a cumulative cost burden on counties and other local governments.

It is probably unrealistic to expect the General Assembly to cease-and-desist in imposing any new mandates on local governments. However, it isn't unreasonable to expect legislators to recognize the financial consequences of these actions with the objective of encouraging them to pause to ask, "what will this cost the local governments in our districts?"

The objective of this report, and future such reports, is to generate awareness about the types of new laws that impose costs on county governments and to remind legislators that someone needs to pay for the mandates imposed. That someone is the local taxpayer. In this respect, voting for state mandates is a hidden tax or service cut, depending on what action a local government must take to offset the added cost.

This report identifies new laws enacted in 2020 that impose unfunded state mandates on counties. **This year's report only includes four public acts because of the limited number of new laws enacted during a legislative session truncated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

According to the Illinois State Mandates Act (30 ILCS 805), there are five types of mandates:

- Local Government Organization and Structure Mandates
- Due Process Mandates
- Service Mandates
- Tax Exemption Mandates
- Personnel Mandates

In the most general sense, however, a mandate can be defined as something a person or entity is compelled to do without having any real choice in the matter. The new laws listed within this report certainly fit this definition.

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) will generally oppose new unfunded state mandates. ISACo recognizes some mandates are intended to achieve an important public policy purpose and some mandates are relatively innocuous with respect to impact. In the case of the former, we ask that the General Assembly either provide county governments with the financial resources to defray the cost or work with counties to resolve the issue without the need to compel a costly solution.

Respectfully,



Joe McCoy
Executive Director

New State Mandates – Enacted in 2020

Bill	Title	Nature of Mandate	P.A. Number
Government Operations			
HB 2238	2020 General Election Trailer Bill	Costs associated with additional requirements	101-0641
SB 1863	2020 General Election Changes	Costs associated with new requirements	101-0642
Personnel & Pension			
HB 2455	Workers' Compensation – Covid-19 Rebuttable Presumption	Costs associated with benefits	101-0633
SB 471	Public Employee Disability Benefits	Costs associated with benefits	101-0651