

Everyone knows that this year's budget is extremely fiscally tight. The League and its 736 members are aware of that fact. Our members even took the step to drop their budget projections 15-20%. The large cuts proposed by the Governor however took all of our members by surprise. As a result, our members have had to adapt to the proposal on the fly since a municipal fiscal year is already half way done. Many have started to put some plans in place if HB153 passes in its present form, but the League would like to propose the following amendments to address our members concerns with HB153.

1. Additional support for the Local Government Fund.
2. Remove the proposal to change the allocation of the undivided local government funds from the Senate Passed Version.
3. Estate Tax Amendment. Replace the revenue or find way to phase the estate tax out over a 6-8 year period.
4. Raise Competitive Bid Limit for Cities to \$50,000. Section that need to be amended are:
 

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Section 715.18  | Purchasing Department       |
| Section 723.52  | Street Construction         |
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| Section 735.05  | Public Service Contracts    |
| Section 737.03  | Department of Public Safety |
| Section 749.26  | Board of Hospital Trustees  |
| Section 749.28  | Board of Hospital Trustees  |
| Section 749.31  | Board of Hospital Trustees  |
| Section 753.15  | Reformatory Institutions    |
| Section 755.29  | Board of Park Trustees      |
| Section 755.30  | Board of Park Trustees      |
| Section 6115.20 | Sanitary District           |
5. Eliminate the yearly reports that are required by some municipalities to the Attorney General relative to stolen, lost or illegally gained property they receive and disposed of.
6. Allow municipalities to **voluntarily** participate in state health insurance contracts much like we do through the existing cooperative purchasing program for various goods and equipment. If a "State" pool should come about, at least provide that those local pools already existing be allowed to continue.
7. Replace current language dealing with "Limiting the cumulative total amount recovered in forfeiture for a violation of the prohibition against the destruction or damage of records of a public office" with S.B. 178.
8. Remove "Prohibition of political subdivision from enacting or continuing in effect local legislation that bans, prohibits, or otherwise restricts, a food service operation is characterized as a quick service or fast food restaurant."
9. Remove requirement that all governmental entities submit reportable information regarding public employee's salaries and benefits annually to the Treasurer of the State.
10. Remove prohibition with Solid Waste Districts from exempting public haulers from fee. This would be another way for public entities to save money.
11. Institute the 2% employee-employer change for the contribution rate in the pension systems. This is the only true tool that would our members relief from the proposed cuts.

12. Separate legislation should be used to address all publication concerns & potential conflicts between H.B.220 (House) & Governors original proposal
13. Increase prevailing wage to \$ 5 million and allow municipal corporations to use it for streets, alleys, bridges, water and sewer.
14. Clarify that private companies contracted to perform a public service is subject to municipal taxation requirement, 718.01.
15. Auditor's new fiscal caution- emergency language still needs some work.
16. Remove the provision that increases from 100 to 150 the population that a municipal corporation must have in order to establish a Mayor's Court. (This was inserted in the Senate)

Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters. We would be pleased to work with you on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

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