Ohio Municipal League

Our Cities and Villages ★ Bringing Ohio to Life

OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Ohio Municipal League has reviewed the draft for the 2004 Local Impact Statement Report and would like to make the following comments.

The report has improved with each passing session. The same can be said for the actual fiscal notes and local impact statements.

The Local Impact Statement process is a valuable tool that we believe makes members of the General Assembly more aware of how their decisions have financial implications to municipalities and other local units of government. However, the report does not give a comprehensive and accurate view of unfunded mandates from the perspective of municipalities because the General Assembly has exempted budget bills from the LIS process and, thus, this report.

A reader of this report would "miss" the extension of the "freeze" in Local Government Funds, a form of state revenue sharing with local governments. Significant fiscal impacts were incurred by municipalities as a result of the state budget process. In our view, there are also unfunded mandates contained in the budget bill that carry greater significance than the legislation reviewed in this report. To that end, we hope that one day the budget bill will be included in this report.

We are always optimistic that this document will gain a larger recognition with state decision makers as they consider imposing additional programs or duties on local governments or reducing or limiting funding.

The Ohio Municipal League commends the staff at LSC for the time and effort they put into the individual statements and to this report.