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§ 1501. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

- (1) to strengthen the partnership between the Federal Government and State, local, and tribal governments;
- (2) to end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by Congress, of Federal mandates on State, local, and tribal governments without adequate Federal funding, in a manner that may displace other essential State, local, and tribal governmental priorities;
- (3) to assist Congress in its consideration of proposed legislation establishing or revising Federal programs containing Federal mandates affecting State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector by—
 - (A) providing for the development of information about the nature and size of mandates in proposed legislation; and
 - (B) establishing a mechanism to bring such information to the attention of the Senate and the House of Representatives before the Senate and the House of Representatives vote on proposed legislation;
- (4) to promote informed and deliberate decisions by Congress on the appropriateness of Federal mandates in any particular instance;
- (5) to require that Congress consider whether to provide funding to assist State, local, and tribal governments in complying with Federal mandates, to require analyses of the impact of private sector mandates, and through the dissemination of that information provide informed and deliberate decisions by Congress and Federal agencies and retain competitive balance between the public and private sectors;
- (6) to establish a point-of-order vote on the consideration in the Senate and House of Representatives of legislation containing significant Federal intergovernmental mandates without providing adequate funding to comply with such mandates;
- (7) to assist Federal agencies in their consideration of proposed regulations affecting State, local, and tribal governments, by—
 - (A) requiring that Federal agencies develop a process to enable the elected and

other officials of State, local, and tribal governments to provide input when Federal agencies are developing regulations; and

(B) requiring that Federal agencies prepare and consider estimates of the budgetary impact of regulations containing Federal mandates upon State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector before adopting such regulations, and ensuring that small governments are given special consideration in that process; and

(8) to begin consideration of the effect of previously imposed Federal mandates, including the impact on State, local, and tribal governments of Federal court interpretations of Federal statutes and regulations that impose Federal intergovernmental mandates.

(Pub. L. 104-4, §2, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 48.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 104-4, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 48, known as the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 104-4 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter and sections 658 to 658g of this title, amending sections 602, 632, and 653 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1511 and 1531 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.’”

§ 1502. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

- (1) except as provided in section 1555 of this title, the terms defined under section 658 of this title shall have the meanings as so defined; and
- (2) the term “Director” means the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

(Pub. L. 104-4, §3, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 49.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1555 of this title.

§ 1503. Exclusions

This chapter shall not apply to any provision in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report before Congress and any provision in a proposed or final Federal regulation that—

- (1) enforces constitutional rights of individuals;
- (2) establishes or enforces any statutory rights that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or disability;
- (3) requires compliance with accounting and auditing procedures with respect to grants or other money or property provided by the Federal Government;
- (4) provides for emergency assistance or relief at the request of any State, local, or tribal government or any official of a State, local, or tribal government;
- (5) is necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations;

(6) the President designates as emergency legislation and that the Congress so designates in statute; or

(7) relates to the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under title II of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.] (including taxes imposed by sections 3101(a) and 3111(a) of title 26 (relating to old-age, survivors, and disability insurance)).

(Pub. L. 104-4, § 4, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 49.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in par. (7), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Title II of the Act is classified generally to subchapter II (§ 401 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

§ 1504. Agency assistance

Each agency shall provide to the Director such information and assistance as the Director may reasonably request to assist the Director in carrying out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 104-4, § 5, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 50.)

SUBCHAPTER I—LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM

§ 1511. Cost of regulations

(a) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of the Congress that Federal agencies should review and evaluate planned regulations to ensure that the cost estimates provided by the Congressional Budget Office will be carefully considered as regulations are promulgated.

(b) Statement of cost

At the request of a committee chairman or ranking minority member, the Director shall, to the extent practicable, prepare a comparison between—

- (1) an estimate by the relevant agency, prepared under section 1532 of this title, of the costs of regulations implementing an Act containing a Federal mandate; and
- (2) the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for such Act when it was enacted by the Congress.

(c) Cooperation of Office of Management and Budget

At the request of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide data and cost estimates for regulations implementing an Act containing a Federal mandate covered by part B of title IV of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 [2 U.S.C. 658 et seq.].

(Pub. L. 104-4, title I, § 103, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 62.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 93-344, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 297, as amended. Part B of title IV of the Act is classified generally to part B (§ 658 et seq.) of subchapter II of chapter 17A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see

Short Title note set out under section 621 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 110 of title I of Pub. L. 104-4 provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter and sections 658 to 658g of this title and amending sections 602, 632, and 653 of this title] shall take effect on January 1, 1996 or on the date 90 days after appropriations are made available as authorized under section 109 [section 1516 of this title], whichever is earlier and shall apply to legislation considered on and after such date.”

§ 1512. Consideration for Federal funding

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a State, local, or tribal government that already complies with all or part of the Federal intergovernmental mandates included in the bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report from consideration for Federal funding under section 658d(a)(2) of this title for the cost of the mandate, including the costs the State, local, or tribal government is currently paying and any additional costs necessary to meet the mandate.

(Pub. L. 104-4, title I, § 105, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 62.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 104-4, Mar. 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 48, known as the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1501 of this title and Tables.

§ 1513. Impact on local governments

(a) Findings

The Senate finds that—

- (1) the Congress should be concerned about shifting costs from Federal to State and local authorities and should be equally concerned about the growing tendency of States to shift costs to local governments;
- (2) cost shifting from States to local governments has, in many instances, forced local governments to raise property taxes or curtail sometimes essential services; and
- (3) increases in local property taxes and cuts in essential services threaten the ability of many citizens to attain and maintain the American dream of owning a home in a safe, secure community.

(b) Sense of Senate

It is the sense of the Senate that—

- (1) the Federal Government should not shift certain costs to the State, and States should end the practice of shifting costs to local governments, which forces many local governments to increase property taxes;
- (2) States should end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by their legislatures, of State issued mandates on local governments without adequate State funding, in a manner that may displace other essential government priorities; and
- (3) one primary objective of this chapter and other efforts to change the relationship among Federal, State, and local governments should be to reduce taxes and spending at all levels and to end the practice of shifting costs from