



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON RULES
Room 448
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

FRANCIS W. HATCH, JR.
REPUBLICAN FLOOR LEADER

March 28, 1973

TO: Mayor or City Manager
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

As you know, bills which the legislature passes by a simple majority mandating minimum municipal salary grades or providing increased tax abatements usually result in property tax increases at the local level. Obviously, in many instances the benefit (i.e. elderly tax abatements or increased pay for fire and police chiefs) must be weighed against the impact on taxes.

Thirty-eight House Republicans have sponsored a constitutional amendment to require a 2/3rds vote instead of a simple majority vote on any legislation which would impose additional costs on cities and towns. (A summary of the amendment is on the following page).

The constitutional amendment process is lengthy; amendments must be approved at two separate legislative sessions and then by the state electorate. We have filed this amendment seasonably for the past two years but the leadership has never brought it up for a vote. We need your help. We would appreciate your filling out the enclosed questionnaire. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Hatch, Jr.
Rep. Francis W. Hatch, Jr.

Daniel C. Towse
Rep. Daniel C. Towse
(R-Stoughton)

FWH/cav
Enclosure



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H3824 provides:

A. A proposed bill which would impose additional costs upon two or more cities or towns by regulation of compensation, hours, status, conditions, or benefits of municipal employment would require:

1. acceptance by city or town by vote or appropriation of money
- OR 2. 2/3rds vote by each legislative branch
- OR 3. provision by same session of the General Court for state assumption of costs

B. A proposed bill which would grant or increase exemptions from local taxation, or increase retirement benefits would require:

1. 2/3rds vote of each legislative branch
2. provision by same session of General Court for state assumption of costs.

NAME _____

TOWN OR CITY _____

OFFICE HELD _____

I SUPPORT H3824 _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

COMMENTS _____

I WILL CONTACT MY STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT.

_____ **YES** _____ **NO**

PLEASE RETURN WITHIN ONE WEEK TO:

**REP. FRANK HATCH
ROOM 448
STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133**

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City of Cambridge

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