



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

V E T O # 2

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

MAY 08 2007

Assembly Bill Number 2935 entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to the office of chief of police”

N O T A P P R O V E D

Under Civil Service Law § 58(1-c), every political subdivision with a population of 150,000 or less, and a police department with at least four full-time employees, must have a full-time police chief. This bill would extend that requirement to localities with fewer than 150,000 inhabitants and with at least eight part-time police officers.

I have repeatedly stated that the State government needs to reduce, not increase, the number of unfunded mandates that it imposes on local governments. According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, if this bill is enacted, 46 towns and villages will be compelled to hire full-time police chiefs. Although for some of these municipalities having a full-time police chief would seem to be warranted, others are very small localities with very limited budgets, and this new mandate will have a significant fiscal impact on these municipalities.

I fully recognize and support the need to ensure that police officers are properly supervised. However, exactly how to accomplish that goal generally should be left to local government leaders, who are elected by the residents of those municipalities. Indeed, just last month I created a Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, which will be finding ways to reduce the burden on local taxpayers through regional consolidations and the sharing of services. This legislation is directly contrary to the goals of that effort.

The bill is disapproved.