

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 345

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate all federally imposed mandates over the local budget process and financial management of the District of Columbia and the borrowing of money by the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 2011

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate all federally imposed mandates over the local budget process and financial management of the District of Columbia and the borrowing of money by the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia
5 Budget Autonomy Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF FEDERAL MANDATES OVER**
 2 **LOCAL BUDGET PROCESS AND FINANCIAL**
 3 **MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

4 (a) TERMINATION OF MANDATES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title IV of the
 6 District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.41
 7 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at
 8 the end the following new subpart:

9 “Subpart 3—Termination of Federal Mandates

10 “TERMINATION OF FEDERAL MANDATES

11 “SEC. 458. (a) BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGE-
 12 MENT GOVERNED UNDER DISTRICT LAW.—Effective with
 13 respect to fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year
 14 which is not a control year—

15 “(1) the provisions of subpart 1 (other than
 16 section 451) and subpart 2 (other than section 455)
 17 shall not apply; and

18 “(2) the process by which the District of Co-
 19 lumbia develops and enacts the budget for the Dis-
 20 trict government for a fiscal year, and the activities
 21 carried out with respect to the financial management
 22 of the District government for a fiscal year, shall be
 23 established under such laws as may be enacted by
 24 the District.

25 “(b) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING OBLIGATIONS.—
 26 Nothing in this section may be construed to relieve the

1 District of Columbia of any contractual or other financial
 2 obligations incurred by the District under a budget en-
 3 acted for a fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2012.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 5 tents of such Act is amended by adding at the end
 6 of the items relating to part D of title IV the fol-
 7 lowing:

“Subpart 3—Termination of Federal Mandates

“Sec. 458. Termination of Federal mandates.”.

8 (b) ELIMINATION OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PE-
 9 RIOD FOR BUDGET ACTS.—Section 602(c) of such Act
 10 (sec. 1–206.02(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

11 (1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by
 12 striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs
 13 (2) and (4)”;

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 15 paragraph:

16 “(4) In the case of any Act adopting the annual budg-
 17 et for the District of Columbia government for fiscal year
 18 2012 or any succeeding fiscal year which is not a control
 19 year, such Act shall take effect upon the date prescribed
 20 by such Act.”.

21 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF FEDERAL MANDATES OVER BOR-**
 22 **ROWING OF MONEY.**

23 (a) TERMINATION OF MANDATES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title IV of the
 2 District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.61
 3 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at
 4 the end the following new subpart:

5 “Subpart 6—Termination of Federal Mandates

6 “TERMINATION OF FEDERAL MANDATES

7 “SEC. 490A. (a) BORROWING GOVERNED UNDER
 8 DISTRICT LAW.—Except as provided in subsection (b), ef-
 9 fective with respect to fiscal year 2012 and each suc-
 10 ceeding fiscal year which is not a control year—

11 “(1) the provisions of subparts 1 through 5
 12 shall not apply; and

13 “(2) the process and rules by which the District
 14 of Columbia issues bonds or otherwise borrows
 15 money shall be established under such laws as may
 16 be enacted by the District.

17 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Sub-
 18 section (a) does not apply with respect to the following
 19 sections:

20 “(1) Section 482 (relating to the full faith and
 21 credit of the District).

22 “(2) Section 484 (relating to the nonapplica-
 23 bility of the full faith and credit of the United
 24 States).

1 “(3) Section 485 (relating to the tax treatment
2 of bonds and notes).

3 “(4) Section 486 (relating to legal investment
4 in bonds and notes).

5 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
6 tion may be construed—

7 “(1) to relieve the District of Columbia of any
8 obligation incurred with respect to bonds or other
9 forms of borrowing issued prior to fiscal year 2012;
10 or

11 “(2) to waive the application to the District of
12 Columbia of any other Federal law governing the
13 borrowing of funds by States or units of local gov-
14 ernment, including the Internal Revenue Code of
15 1986.”.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
17 tents of such Act is amended by adding at the end
18 of the items relating to part E of title IV the fol-
19 lowing:

“Subpart 6—Termination of Federal Mandates

“Sec. 490A. Termination of Federal mandates.”.

20 (b) REPEAL OF CAP ON AMOUNT OF DISTRICT BOR-
21 ROWING.—Section 603(b) of such Act (sec. 1–206.03(b),
22 D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the
23 following new paragraph:

1 “(4) Paragraphs (1) through (3) shall not apply with
 2 respect to fiscal year 2012 or any succeeding fiscal year
 3 which is not a control year.”.

4 **SEC. 4. OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO HOME**
 5 **RULE ACT RELATING TO CHANGES IN FED-**
 6 **ERAL ROLE IN BUDGET PROCESS.**

7 (a) **FEDERAL AUTHORITY OVER BUDGET-MAKING**
 8 **PROCESS.**—Section 603(a) of the District of Columbia
 9 Home Rule Act (sec. 1–206.03, D.C. Official Code) is
 10 amended by inserting before the period at the end the fol-
 11 lowing: “for a fiscal year which is a control year”.

12 (b) **RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE DURING CONTROL**
 13 **YEARS.**—Section 603(d) of such Act (sec. 1–206.03(d),
 14 D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

15 “(d) In the case of a fiscal year which is a control
 16 year, the Council may not approve, and the Mayor may
 17 not forward to the President, any budget which is not con-
 18 sistent with the financial plan and budget established for
 19 the fiscal year under subtitle A of title II of the District
 20 of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management
 21 Assistance Act of 1995.”.

22 (c) **DEFINITION.**—Section 603(f) of such Act (sec. 1–
 23 206.03(f), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as fol-
 24 lows:

1 “(f) In this section, the term ‘control year’ has the
2 meaning given such term in section 305(4) of the District
3 of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management
4 Assistance Act of 1995.”.

5 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2012
7 and each succeeding fiscal year.

8 **SEC. 5. OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO**
9 **FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED ADJUSTMENTS TO**
10 **LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY GRANTED BY FEDERAL GOVERN-
12 MENT TO INCREASE SPENDING IN CASE OF GENERAL
13 FUND SURPLUS.—Section 816 of the Financial Services
14 and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (sec.
15 47–369.01, D.C. Official Code), is amended by striking
16 “Beginning in fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year there-
17 after,” and inserting the following: “With respect to fiscal
18 years 2009 through 2011 and any fiscal year thereafter
19 which is a control year (as defined in section 305(4) of
20 the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and
21 Management Assistance Act of 1995),”.

22 (b) AUTHORITY GRANTED BY FEDERAL GOVERN-
23 MENT TO INCREASE SPENDING IN CASE OF INCREASED
24 REVENUE COLLECTIONS.—Section 817(a) of such Act
25 (sec. 47–369.02(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by

1 striking “Beginning in fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal
2 year thereafter,” and inserting the following: “With re-
3 spect to fiscal years 2009 through 2011 and any fiscal
4 year thereafter which is a control year (as defined in sec-
5 tion 305(4) of the District of Columbia Financial Respon-
6 sibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995),”.

7 (c) AUTHORITY GRANTED BY FEDERAL GOVERN-
8 MENT REGARDING USE OF FEDERALLY MANDATED RE-
9 SERVE FUNDS.—Section 818 of such Act (sec. 47–369.03,
10 D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “Beginning in
11 fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter,” and in-
12 serting the following: “With respect to fiscal years 2009
13 through 2011 and any fiscal year thereafter which is a
14 control year (as defined in section 305(4) of the District
15 of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management
16 Assistance Act of 1995),”.

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