NCSL Standing Committee on
Budgets and Revenue

POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS

2022 NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
DENVER, CO

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WHEREAS, advance refunding of tax-exempt municipal bonds can be a financial tool that saves state and local governments billions of dollars by allowing them to provide more comprehensive savings at lower costs to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the refunding of tax-exempt municipal bonds is a mechanism by which states and localities finance infrastructure projects, utilities, education, and other general purpose bonds; and

WHEREAS, a refunding occurs when the proceeds from one bond are used to pay off another bond, typically at a lower interest rate; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Investing in our Communities Act as introduced in the 117th Congress restores the ability for states to advance refund their tax-exempt municipal bonds, which was eliminated by the Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Conference of State Legislatures urges Congress to pass legislation that restores the ability of states to finance public infrastructure that is cost-effective and consistent with NCSL principles of preserving fiscal viability and tax reform.
WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-577) allowed federal government agencies to provide certain services to state and local governments. While most of this Act was repealed in 1982, the ability for the federal government agencies to provide these services to states and localities was preserved and re-codified in 31 U.S.C. 6505; and

WHEREAS, for many years, NCSL has advocated for federal agencies to engage in meaningful consultation with states on agency proposals and to provide greater transparency and communication with states. As implementors of federal agency actions, states are important stakeholders and are a level of government representing the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, S. 3890, the “Improving Intergovernmental Cooperation and Reducing Duplication Act of 2022” seeks to remedy the lack of transparency and communication between federal agencies and states with respect to the provision of important services to states, and clarifies that states “should have the option, without being coerced or required, to adopt and use important information, infrastructure, capabilities, and services from the federal government if such offerings are made to benefit taxpayers and the constituents served by those offerings;” and

WHEREAS, S. 3890 would require federal agency heads to do whatever may be necessary to increase cooperation and reduce administrative burdens between states and federal agencies and requires the creation of strategic plan in consultation with state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments; and
WHEREAS, NCSL, as the national bipartisan organization representing our nation’s states and territories must be part of the development of the strategic plan as a relevant stakeholder; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSL urges Congress to pass S. 3890, the “Improving Intergovernmental Cooperation and Reducing Duplication Act of 2022” so that states and NCSL have a voice in improving intergovernmental cooperation and transparency between states and the federal government.