

Proposed Local Law Number 9 Of 2025

County Of Ulster

A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XLI From Each (Youth Bureau), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XI (Department of Social Services)

BE IT ENACTED, by the County Legislature of the County of Ulster, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE.

The Ulster County Legislature finds that integrating the Ulster County Youth Bureau into the Department of Social Services will improve administrative efficiency and strengthen youth services. The Youth Bureau's mission is "to provide for a safe and healthy environment that promotes the well-being of all youth in Ulster County," and its programs will remain intact and continue without interruption. Placing the Youth Bureau under the Department of Social Services will facilitate better coordination of services and resources for young people, as the Youth Bureau directs funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to youth programs, an area closely allied with Social Services' functions.

This reorganization is purely administrative and is not intended to diminish the Youth Bureau's distinct role. The intention of the law is to enhance the level of services provided to Ulster County youth. No changes will be made as a part of this reorganization to the Youth Bureau's staffing, funding, or programs aside from the new reporting structure. The Director of the Youth Bureau will continue to be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature as under the current Charter, ensuring continued accountability and legislative oversight. The Legislature's intent is to streamline County operations by housing the Youth Bureau within an existing department, thereby enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and operational support, while preserving the Youth Bureau's mission, staffing, and the important work of the Youth Board.

This local law also provides that the former Article XLI of the Charter and Administrative Code, which previously contained the Youth Bureau, will be reserved for future use. The integration is expected to bolster youth services through unified management and shared resources, and to reaffirm Ulster County's commitment to its young residents.

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SECTION 2. Article XLI of the Ulster County Charter is hereby deleted in its entirety and reserved for future use.

Article XLI Reserved.

SECTION 3. Article XLI of the Ulster County Administrative Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and reserved for future use.

Article XLIV Reserved.

SECTION 4. Article XI Section C-62 of the Ulster County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

§ C-62. Commissioner of Social Services.

C. There shall be within the Department of Social Services, an independent Youth Bureau, headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the County Executive based on their education, experience and qualifications to perform the duties of the office, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature, and shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Director of the Youth Bureau shall report to the Commissioner of Social Services under the administrative direction of the Department of Social Services.

D. The Director of the Youth Bureau shall have managerial responsibility for the department and, with the advice and assistance of the Youth Board, recommend policies that promote youth development and prevent delinquency, plan and coordinate activities devoted to the well-being and protection of all youth in Ulster County, and expand public awareness of youth issues. They shall have all the powers and perform all the duties now and hereafter conferred or imposed upon them by law, have authority, direction and control over the Youth Bureau, including power to appoint and remove officers and employees therein and perform such other and related duties required by the County Executive or County Legislature.

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SECTION 5. Article XI of the Ulster County Administrative Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ A11-1. Commissioner of Social Services.

C. There shall be within the Department of Social Services, an independent Youth Bureau, headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the County Executive based on their education, experience and qualifications to perform the duties of the office, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature, and shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Director of the Youth Bureau shall report to the Commissioner of Social Services under the administrative direction of the Department of Social Services.

D. The Director of the Youth Bureau shall have managerial responsibility for the department and, with the advice and assistance of the Youth Board, recommend policies that promote youth development and prevent delinquency, plan and coordinate activities devoted to the well-being and protection of all youth in Ulster County, and expand public awareness of youth issues. They shall have all the powers and perform all the duties now and hereafter conferred or imposed upon them by law, have authority, direction and control over the Youth Bureau, including power to appoint and remove officers and employees therein and perform such other and related duties required by the County Executive or County Legislature.

~~E.~~ **E.** Reports. On or before March 1 of each year, the Commissioner of Social Services shall make an annual report to the County Legislature and County Executive for the immediately preceding calendar year, covering generally the work of the department, **inclusive of the Youth Bureau.** The Commissioner shall make such other reports at such times as may be required by the County Legislature, County Executive or any applicable law. Copies of all reports shall be filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature and the County Executive.

~~F.~~ **F.** Accounting for moneys. All moneys to which the Social Services Department may be entitled under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York, or which the Commissioner may receive for services performed by his or her department, shall

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belong to said department and shall be collected by such Commissioner, accounted for and paid over to the Commissioner of Finance by a written statement within 10 days after the expiration of each month. Each monthly statement shall have attached thereto a certification by said Commissioner to the effect that the same is in all respects a full and true statement of all such moneys received by him or her for the preceding month. The Commissioner of Social Services shall pay to the Commissioner of Finance all moneys received by him or her which are reportable to or receivable by the County as soon as practicable or as may be required by the Commissioner of Finance, but in no event less than once weekly.

§ A11-3 Youth Board.

A. Membership; appointment; term. There shall be a Youth Board which shall consist of fifteen (15) members to be appointed by the County Executive for terms of three years, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. The Board shall encourage diverse representation indicative of the entire community. Membership shall reflect a balance between government and non-government representatives who are directly concerned with the well-being of youth and to represent the community to which it serves. All members of the Youth Board shall be residents of Ulster County. No member of the Youth Board shall hold any other County or state office. Members of the Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among their number for a term of one year. Board members shall be known as “Commissioners of the Youth Bureau of the County of Ulster,” and shall receive no compensation for their services or activities except for actual and necessary expenses in the performance of their duties as may be provided for by appropriation. The Sheriff of Ulster County, the Commissioner of Health, or Public Health Director, the Family Court Judges of Ulster County, the County Attorney (or their representative), the Commissioner of Social Services, and two members of the County Legislature designated by the Chair of the Legislature shall be ex officio members of the Youth Bureau.

B. Powers and duties. The Youth Board shall propose policies, programs and recommendations to the Director of the Youth Bureau, the County Executive, and the County Legislature regarding measures most suitable to supplement, aid and

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coordinate the work and activities of all public and private agencies, including religious and social institutions, seeking to prevent delinquency and youth crime, to advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth of Ulster County, and to encourage the County's local governments to take an interest in the well-being of youth.

C. The Youth Board shall keep minutes of all meetings, including the date and time of meeting and Board members in attendance. The original of said minutes shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature as soon as possible, but not to exceed 10 business days after the next regular Board meeting at which the minutes were reviewed and accepted. The Clerk of the Legislature or their designee shall maintain an official record of the Board's agenda items. This official record shall include the disposition of each agenda item, including individual votes of each Board member on each item.

A11-3 § A11-4 Bond of Commissioner of Social Services.

The Commissioner of Social Services, and such of ~~his or her~~ **their** deputies, officers and employees as the County Legislature or the County Executive shall require, shall file a surety bond to the County in a sum fixed by the County Legislature conditioned for the faithful performance of ~~his or her~~ **their** duties. Such bond shall be approved as to form by the County Attorney and as to sufficiency of surety by the County Executive, and shall be filed with the County Clerk. It shall be a charge on the County.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

In the event that any portion of this Local Law is found to be preempted by state law, or otherwise invalidated, such finding will not have any effect on either the remaining portions or applications of this Local Law or any provisions of the Ulster County Charter, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State.