



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2014

Legislature Votes to Survey Students

(KINGSTON, NY) While post secondary education provides opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills needed to keep and maintain a competitive workforce, the Ulster County Legislature sought reasons for the adverse imbalance in a chargeback program in which, according to State law, the County of Ulster must spend millions of dollars in “chargeback” tuition fees to other counties due to Ulster County residents attending community colleges outside of Ulster County.

Legislators have heard from experts in the field and with a quarter of the Legislature having, itself, attended or graduated from SUNY Ulster, the understanding as to why students chose community colleges outside of Ulster County in the past is acknowledged. Yet, with a “Community College Chargeback Payments Report of Examinations” from Ulster County Comptroller Elliot Auerbach, the Legislators deemed it unacceptable to simply write off the chargeback program deficit as a typical, recurring, and annual deficit for the County of Ulster.

“This chargeback system was put in place when New York State was paying a third of the cost of community college tuition; but over time, Albany’s number keeps getting smaller, and our number keeps getting higher,” stated Auerbach at the time of the report’s release. “We have recommended a study of the reasons why so many Ulster students choose to attend out-of-county community colleges.”

On Tuesday, August 19, 2014, the Ulster County Legislature voted unanimously to review the reasons for the adverse imbalance in the chargeback program so that, in conjunction with UCCC, they may jointly develop policies, programs and capital projects, as necessary, to address the identified factors which are leading to residents seeking their community college experience outside of Ulster County.

Ulster County Legislative Vice Chairman David Donaldson noted after the vote, “This expenditure has increased by \$1 million in just three years. The students of today will help us to develop the policies of tomorrow and hopefully, turn this fiscal deficit around.”

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[Attached: Resolution No. 225 with survey]

Establishing A Policy To Survey Ulster County Residents Who Attend Community Colleges Outside Of Ulster County

Referred to: The Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee (Chairman David Donaldson and Legislators Archer, Gregorius, Lopez and Wawro)

Chairman of the Legislative Program, Education and Community Services Committee, Legislator David B. Donaldson, offers the following:

WHEREAS, in accordance with State law, the County of Ulster pays millions of dollars in “chargeback” tuition fees to other counties due to Ulster County residents attending community colleges outside of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, proportionately Ulster County receives significantly less from other counties due to residents of other counties attending Ulster County Community College, creating a substantial deficit with respect to the chargeback program; and

WHEREAS, according to the November 15, 2012 “Community College Chargeback Payments Report of Examinations” of the Ulster County Comptroller, the chargeback program deficit is a typical, recurring, and annual deficit for the County of Ulster; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has an obligation and a desire to develop policies and programs which will benefit the County as a whole, and can partner with Ulster County Community College (UCCC) to foster fiscal strength and educational value within our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature desires to determine the reasons for the adverse imbalance in the chargeback program so that in conjunction with UCCC, they may jointly develop policies, programs and capital projects, as necessary, to address the identified factors which are leading to residents seeking their community college experience outside of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that in order to obtain such information, it would be beneficial to survey students who seek a certificate of residency from the Commissioner of Finance, which they require in order to obtain the chargeback tuition payment to their community college of choice; and

Resolution No. 225 August 19, 2014

Establishing A Policy To Survey Ulster County Residents Who Attend Community Colleges Outside Of Ulster County

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that conducting such a survey independently, after such certificates of residency have been obtained and students are already attending their community college of choice, would require the investment of significant personnel and other financial resources of the County and would be likely to have an extremely low rate of return; and

WHEREAS, at the time such students seek their certificate of residency the likelihood of their completion of such a survey is deemed to be significantly greater and would require no additional financial burden on the County and no additional personnel effort on the part of County employees other than the transmission of the survey to the designated parties; and

WHEREAS, a survey has been developed in conjunction with the UCCC, and is attached hereto, which can be administered at the time of a student resident's application for a certificate of residency, which is found by the Legislature to seek the desired information in a succinct fashion and without inconvenience to the applicant and which will indicate that completion of same is not a pre-requisite to the issuance of the certificate of residency; now, therefore be it

~~RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance be authorized and directed to revise the application for certificate of residency so that the survey is made a part thereof, consistent with the form attached hereto and made a part hereof; and, be it further~~

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance be authorized and directed to include with the application for a student resident's certificate of residency shall include a separate survey excluding any requirement for personal identification; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the completed surveys be transmitted no less than monthly on or before the first business day of the month to the Clerk of the Legislature; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to transmit completed surveys to the designee for receipt of same at UCCC; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this form, as well as this policy and procedure be in effect until, by resolution of the Legislature, it shall be rescinded,

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Establishing A Policy To Survey Ulster County Residents Who Attend Community Colleges Outside Of Ulster County
and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services
on July 2, 2014.

Passed Committee: Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services as
amended on August 6, 2014

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

**Please complete the following survey for all Ulster County Residents attending a
Community College other than Ulster County Community College**

**NOTE: YOUR RESPONSES WILL HAVE NO BEARING WHATSOEVER ON THE PROCEESSING OF
THIS FORM OR YOUR ENTITLEMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCE**

Name of community college you're attending: _____

I have chosen to attend another college outside of Ulster County because:
(Please check off all reasons that apply)

_____ The Program I want is not offered at Ulster County Community College. Please list the
program you are pursuing. _____

_____ The out of county community college is closer to my home.

_____ The out of county community college is closer to my job.

_____ The tuition and fees of the out of county community college are less than Ulster County
Community College's.

_____ I want on campus housing.

_____ Friends/Relatives attend the community college of my choice

_____ Too many students from my high school attend Ulster Community College

_____ Other. Please specify

Thank you for participating in our survey

Ulster County Department of Finance

THIS SPACE FOR USE OF CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER OF COUNTY

CERTIFICATE ISSUED () CERTIFICATE DENIED () DATE _____ BY _____