

**Memorializing Ulster County's Commitment To Pay For The Cost of The Safety Net Program Thereby Relieving The Various Municipalities Of Responsibility For Payment**

***WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR***

Referred to: Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Harris, Maio, Maloney, Gregorius, Provenzano and Rodriguez)

Legislators Jeanette Provenzano and Hector Rodriquez offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Safety Net program is a State program not required or funded by the Federal Government that provides welfare benefits to able-bodied single adults and others that are not eligible for the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, and

WHEREAS, State Social Services Law mandates that the local share of the Safety Net program is to be funded by Towns and Cities, and

WHEREAS, in 1946 the State Legislature voted to continue the mandate that local governments fund a substantial share of this program, but put in place an option that Counties could vote to transfer this State mandated burden from the Town and City property tax levy, to the County property tax levy, and

WHEREAS, traditionally, the local share of the Safety Net program was 50% of program costs, but as part of the 2011-12 State Budget, the Senate and Assembly voted to increase the local share of the Safety Net program to 71% of program costs, thus, dramatically increasing the burden on our Towns and the City of Kingston, and

WHEREAS, each municipality's cost is determined by the number of its residents receiving assistance under the Program; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs associated with the Program have proved to be a substantial expense and burden on the local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the additional cost caused by a substantial reduction in state aid for the program, Ulster County memorialized a plan recommended by the County Executive in October 2012 providing for the County to assume the entire cost of the program over a three year period; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature unanimously adopted Resolution No. 289, dated December 4, 2012, and pursuant to New York State Social Services Law section 72, authorized that the cost of all or any part of the assistance and care for which the towns and cities are made responsible under the provisions of

**Resolution No. 186      July 23, 2013**

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subdivisions one and two of section sixty-nine, shall be a charge on the county social services district; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive proposed in the 2013 Executive Budget and the Ulster County Legislature concurred with the passage of Resolution No. 289 dated December 4, 2012, that the County of Ulster assume the cost of the safety Net Program over a three year period, whereby 33% would be a County charge for the calendar year 2013, 66% would be a County charge for the calendar year 2014, and the total cost would be a County charge for the calendar year 2015; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County remains committed to this scheduled phase in of the costs associated with the Safety Net Program, and did in fact, absorb 33% of the Program's cost in 2013; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that for the calendar year 2014, 66% of the local share cost of the Safety Net Program shall be borne by Ulster County and not billed to its municipalities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that for the calendar year 2015, 100% of the local share cost of the Safety Net Program shall be borne by Ulster County and not billed to its municipalities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any outstanding charges yet to be paid to the County by any municipality for costs associated with the Safety Net Program shall continue to be due and owing, and shall be paid by the respective municipality; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be automatically rescinded and deemed null and void in the event that the New York State Legislature fails to enact legislation authorizing the extension of the authority of the County of Ulster to impose an additional 1 percent sales and compensating use tax, specifically Assembly Bill No. A.5130, before the expiration of the current authority to impose the additional 1 percent rate on November 30, 2013;

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES

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Passed Committee: Ways and Means on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

2013 Estimated County Expenditure, \$1,969,346

2014 Estimated County Expenditure, \$4,072, 787

2015 Estimated County Expenditure, \$6,693,170