

**In Support Of Permanently Ending New And Existing Unfunded State Mandates On Local Governments, And Ending State Budget Actions That Simply Shift Costs From The State To Local Taxpayers**

The Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Petit, Ronk, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Rodriguez and Shapiro) and Co-Sponsors: Legislator Loughran and Chairman Frederick J. Wadnola offer the following:

WHEREAS, counties in New York have long served as the principal partner in administering the State's most critical programs in areas such as health, human services and public protection, and

WHEREAS, as part of administering these programs, the State mandates the delivery of State programs using local resources, and

WHEREAS, in some counties, more than 80 percent of their entire budget goes toward funding State mandated programs and fixed costs, and

WHEREAS, these State mandates are the root cause of high property and sales taxes at the county level and have led to a decline in county services, and

WHEREAS, this high level of State imposed mandates continues to put New York at the top of lists of states with the highest local tax burden for residents and businesses in the country, severely damaging New York's ability to attract, create and maintain good paying jobs, and

WHEREAS, as the State continues to face growing annual budget deficits, successive State Legislatures and Governors continue to shift costs to local governments as a means of balancing the State Budget while mandating that local governments continue to operate and finance an increasing share of these programs as the State's share decreases, and

WHEREAS, these State imposed mandates reach far beyond just forcing local governments to fund and administer State services locally, but are woven into the basic structure of local government day-to-day operations by imposing strict State laws that set the rules for purchasing basic supplies, building and financing public assets of any kind, how local government worker's salaries and benefits are negotiated and set, all with little regard for local economic conditions and ability to pay, or how that impacts our economic competitiveness with other states, now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and the Ulster County Legislature call on the Governor and the State Legislature to end the imposition of new unfunded state mandates on county governments and phase out or reform existing unfunded mandates, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados, the New York State Association of Counties, and all others deemed necessary and proper,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Briggs and Richard Parete)  
(Legislator Fabiano left at 7:44 PM)  
(Legislator Richard Parete arrived at 8:43 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder  
Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature