

Memorializing New York State Legislature To Implement New Measures For Financing Public Education

Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Busick, Cummings, Dart, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Feldmann, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stock, Stoeckeler, Tipp and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, the residents of Ulster County have collectively considered the local issues of greatest concern to them and identified high property taxes as among the top three concerns in the community, and

WHEREAS, funding for local governmental services, including public education, is provided primarily through a tax on the estimated value of property, and

WHEREAS, the welfare of Ulster County homeowners is jeopardized by the rapid increase in the costs of public education and the inability of many homeowners to pay these increased costs, and

WHEREAS, the increasing burden of public education on taxpayers also impacts on the ability to raise other taxes to provide services and to fund Town-specific and local initiatives important to the well being of the community, and

WHEREAS, the General Services/Human Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature appeals to New York State Legislature to implement new measures for financing public education, including the following suggested actions:

1. Ensure equity in a formula for funding public education based on the taxpayers' ability to pay.
2. Decrease the revenue raised from tax sources based on the value of dwellings.
3. Refrain from imposing state mandated requirements upon school systems without corresponding state funding.
4. Adjust the formulas on revenues earmarked as aid to education from state lottery and other future gaming activities so that the annual percentage is substantially increased from current levels.
5. Maintain the enhanced STAR exemption for the town's neediest citizens, but also increase the STAR exemption for senior citizens specifically at all income levels.
6. Regain lost tax revenue from the above actions through income tax, and

Resolution No. 357 November 10, 2004

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Alfonso, Hathaway and Meyer)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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