

Establishing A Temporary Committee To Study Adopting A County Charter

Minority Leader Donaldson and Legislators Bartels, Berardi, Dart, Feldmann, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stoeckeler and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, in the past several years Ulster County Government has experienced large increases in its Budget, as well as the services it provides to County residents, and

WHEREAS, with continued Federal cutbacks and the anticipated increase in the needs and demands of local municipalities, the size and role of County Government will continue to expand, and

WHEREAS, the most populated counties in the Mid-Hudson region operate under a charter, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Ulster County Legislature to provide the residents of Ulster County with the most effective and efficient County Government as possible, and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Office of County Administrator, government has been more efficient, and

WHEREAS, there is a considerable debate over whether a charter would help make government more accountable and maximize its efficiency by delegating State authority to the County, and by providing for a true separation of Executive from Legislative authority, and

WHEREAS, Article 4, Section 133 of the Municipal Home Rule Law provides for the appointment of a charter commission pursuant to resolution of the County Legislature.

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature appoint a committee of six Legislators; three from each caucus, to study and report to the Legislature the advantages and disadvantages of operating under a charter, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the report recommend whether a charter study commission should be empowered to draft a County charter and including but not limited to a County Executive form of government, and

Resolution No. 78 February 12, 2004

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee report its findings to the full Legislature no later than August 31, 2004,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Legislator Donaldson moved, seconded by Legislator Lomita to Refer Resolution No. 78 back to the Government Efficiency and Reform Committee

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32

NOES: 0

(Absent: Legislator Maloney)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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