

Amending The Rules Of Order Of The Ulster County Legislature To Require the Recording of Legislative Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings

Referred to: The Environmental, Energy, and Technology Committee (Chairman Belfiglio and Legislators Bartels, Lopez, Parete, Ronk, Wawro, and Wishnick) and The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Fabiano, Maio, Ronk, Donaldson, Loughran and Parete)

Legislators Tracey A. Bartels and Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. offer the following:

WHEREAS, the people's right to witness and observe the governmental decision-making process in action is basic to our society; and

WHEREAS, Public Officers Law, Article 6, Sections 84-90, also known as the Freedom of Information Law, states that that a free society is maintained when government is responsive and responsible to the public, and when the public is aware of governmental actions; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the more open a government is with its citizenry, the greater the understanding and participation of the public in government; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Ulster County Legislature to continue to improve public access to its governmental actions; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature to make audio recordings of Standing Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 250 of 2012, it is the policy of the Ulster County Legislature to require the posting of those audio recordings to the County website within 72 hours of adjournment of a meeting; and

WHEREAS, public access to the audio recordings allows Ulster County residents that opportunity to review and examine the workings of the County government; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Ulster County Legislature to codify the policies that are already in practice; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Rule 7 of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature, entitled "RULES FOR COMMITTEES" is amended by adding a section labeled "DD" to read as follows:

Resolution No. 87 May 14, 2013

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DD. All Standing Committees and Special Committees shall be audio recorded digitally. All audio recordings shall be uploaded to the web within 72 hours of a meeting's adjournment or completion. All audio recordings shall be maintained electronically by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature and on the Ulster County Legislature's website and for a minimum of one year and until financial or physical limitations adversely impact their future storage **as determined by the Clerk of the Legislature or the Director of Information Services**; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that these changes to the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature shall take effect upon an affirmative vote of this body subsequent to two consecutive readings,

and moves its adoption.

FIRST READING: April 16, 2013

SECOND READING: May 14, 2013

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 4
(Noes: Legislators Belfiglio, Gerentine, Harris and Roberts)
(Absent: Legislator Gregorius)

Passed Committee: Environmental, Energy, and Technology on April 4, 2013

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on April 15, 2013

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0189.1

