



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION  
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
244 FAIR STREET  
KINGSTON, NEW YORK, 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900  
FAX: 845.340.3651  
[www.co.ulster.ny.us](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us)  
[www.ulstercountyny.gov](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov)

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**CONTACT: Krista Barringer 340-3696**

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## ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION ON THE SAFETY NET TAKE OVER AND SALES TAX EXTENSION

(Kingston, NY) The Ulster County Legislature will consider this month a formal policy to completely takeover the cost of the State's Safety Net mandate. The Resolution, (# 185/2013) has broad bi-partisan support and is expected to pass the Legislature at its meeting of July 23, 2013.

In 2013, the County agreed to takeover 1/3 of the Safety Net costs. Under Resolution 185, the County will take over 66% of the Safety Net costs in 2014 and provide for a complete takeover in 2015.

Assemblyman Kevin Cahill said: "I am gratified by the response of the County Legislature. I was unaware that this had not been brought to the County Legislature by the County Executive. The County Legislature has acted with due speed and I am hopeful this can be resolved in short order."

Ulster County Legislature Chairman Terry Bernardo said, "Partnering with Assemblyman Cahill and my colleagues in the Legislature and the County Executive, we have proposed a workable solution that protects property taxpayers and relieves Ulster County Towns of an unfunded mandate. I want to thank Senator Larkin and Assemblyman Skartados for their early agreement and ongoing support to work with the County and their best efforts to protect taxpayers."

Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Gerentine said, "The County was poised to assume the safety net costs over three years no matter what. Memorializing this plan for Safety Net earlier gives everyone necessary comfort that taxpayers will be protected. It was a pleasure to work with Kevin (Cahill) and Mike (Hein) in resolving this issue."

Ulster County Legislator David Donaldson said, "This is a positive development for our County taxpayers and County workforce. I am pleased we were able to resolve our differences and appreciate the opportunity to work with my colleagues to do so. The services funded by the sales tax revenue have to be paid no matter what and I would prefer the costs be paid via sales tax."

Ulster County Legislature Majority Leader Kenneth Ronk said, "Taxpayers should never be held hostage by politics. Together, we have found common ground that protects taxpayers and completes the commitment we made last year to takeover Safety Net."

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