

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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Legislature to Consider Calling for Immediate and Ongoing Assessment of Properties for Tiny Home Developments

(*Kingston*, *NY*) – Legislator Herbert Litts, III (District 9), has introduced a policy calling for a continuous evaluation of county-owned surplus or idle property for its potential suitability for the creation of tiny home developments as an alternative to standard emergency housing placement in motels.

This Resolution creates a policy requiring that all surplus or idle property owned by Ulster County be evaluated for its suitability for tiny home developments. These developments are intended for the use and occupancy of unhoused residents of Ulster County, with a priority on addressing the needs of unhoused Ulster County Veterans and the most vulnerable in our society.

"The men and women who have served our country are at greater risk of homelessness than nearly any other population. By examining our own underutilized properties, we can start getting our Veterans and our vulnerable neighbors housed, provide wraparound services, and foster a sense of community among peers," said Legislator Herbert Litts, III.

According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development January 2024 Point in Time count, approximately five percent of Veterans across the country are experiencing homelessness, including twenty percent of the homeless male population.

In addition to the creation of this policy, Resolution No. 452 requires the Department of Planning to provide the Legislature with recommendations for specific county-owned properties, cost projections and implementation plans to be shared with the Legislature within six months of passage.

"I look forward to seeing this Resolution garner further support from my colleagues and examining the recommendations of the Planning Department when this policy is enacted. Through this creative use of County Property we can work towards the elimination of homelessness and give people the opportunity to get back on their feet, while saving the county over \$13 million each year in temporary housing costs," **concluded Litts.**

This Resolution was postponed for further consideration in the October 9, 2025 Housing & Transportation Committee. Discussion of Resolution No. 452 can be found <u>HERE</u>. All Legislative Standing Committees are livestreamed, please subscribe to the Legislature's YouTube Channel, @UlsterCountyLegislature.

Full text of the Resolution can be found HERE.