

RESOLUTION NO. 116

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO END THE PRACTICE OF PASSING COSTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS TO COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Introduced: 3/10/08

By Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Comisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Morse, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Ward, Mss. Willingham, Benedict, Messrs. Carman, Clouse, Hoblock, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Mendick, Tunny and Zeilman:

WHEREAS, Unfunded State mandates shift the responsibility and the cost of implementing programs from the State to local governments and force localities to cut existing services or raise property and other local taxes to meet the additional requirements, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Department of Management and Budget estimates that the proposed 2008-09 Executive Budget would burden Albany County and its taxpayers with \$1.75 million in additional costs this year and \$2.15 million in 2009, and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Budget Commission states that local taxes in New York State are 79% higher than the national average and that State laws result in high local tax burdens, and

WHEREAS, The Governor has formed a bipartisan commission to make recommendations on a package of reforms targeting the root causes of what is driving up taxes and said commission is due to report its findings in June, and

WHEREAS, The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has previously recommended that State policy makers strive to forge a stronger State/local partnership by eliminating unnecessary state requirements, require the State to pay for mandates it deems essential and establish alternative methods for performance and implementation, and

WHEREAS, While awaiting the recommendations of the Governor's commission, State policy makers should refrain from making the problem worse by shifting costs from the State's 2008-2009 budget to County budgets and local property taxpayers, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature supports NYSAC's calls for the Governor and State Legislature to end the practice of passing on costs for State programs to county governments and property taxpayers, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to NYSAC for distribution to Governor Spitzer and the State Legislature, and to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/10/08