

Establishing A Policy To Survey Ulster County Residents Who Attend Community Colleges Outside Of Ulster County

Referred to: The Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee (Chairman David Donaldson and Legislators Archer, Gregorius, Lopez and Wawro)

Chairman of the Legislative Program, Education and Community Services Committee, Legislator David B. Donaldson, offers the following:

WHEREAS, in accordance with State law, the County of Ulster pays millions of dollars in “chargeback” tuition fees to other counties due to Ulster County residents attending community colleges outside of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, proportionately Ulster County receives significantly less from other counties due to residents of other counties attending Ulster County Community College, creating a substantial deficit with respect to the chargeback program; and

WHEREAS, according to the November 15, 2012 “Community College Chargeback Payments Report of Examinations” of the Ulster County Comptroller, the chargeback program deficit is a typical, recurring, and annual deficit for the County of Ulster; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has an obligation and a desire to develop policies and programs which will benefit the County as a whole, and can partner with Ulster County Community College (UCCC) to foster fiscal strength and educational value within our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature desires to determine the reasons for the adverse imbalance in the chargeback program so that in conjunction with UCCC, they may jointly develop policies, programs and capital projects, as necessary, to address the identified factors which are leading to residents seeking their community college experience outside of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that in order to obtain such information, it would be beneficial to survey students who seek a certificate of residency from the Commissioner of Finance, which they require in order to obtain the chargeback tuition payment to their community college of choice; and

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WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that conducting such a survey independently, after such certificates of residency have been obtained and students are already attending their community college of choice, would require the investment of significant personnel and other financial resources of the County and would be likely to have an extremely low rate of return; and

WHEREAS, at the time such students seek their certificate of residency the likelihood of their completion of such a survey is deemed to be significantly greater and would require no additional financial burden on the County and no additional personnel effort on the part of County employees other than the transmission of the survey to the designated parties; and

WHEREAS, a survey has been developed in conjunction with the UCCC, and is attached hereto, which can be administered at the time of a student resident's application for a certificate of residency, which is found by the Legislature to seek the desired information in a succinct fashion and without inconvenience to the applicant and which will indicate that completion of same is not a pre-requisite to the issuance of the certificate of residency; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance be authorized and directed to revise the application for certificate of residency so that the survey is made a part thereof, consistent with the form attached hereto and made a part hereof; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the completed surveys be transmitted no less than monthly on or before the first business day of the month to the Clerk of the Legislature; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to transmit completed surveys to the designee for receipt of same at UCCC; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this form, as well as this policy and procedure be in effect until, by resolution of the Legislature, it shall be rescinded,

and moves its adoption.

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services on July 2, 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE