

**Authorizing The County To Pay For The Cost Of The Safety Net Program Thereby Relieving The Various Municipalities Of Responsibility For Payment**

Referred to: The Social Services Committee (Chairman Wawro and Legislators Lopez, Richard Parete, Rodriguez, and Ronk) and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Gregorius, Maio, Maloney, Provenzano, Rodriguez and Ronk)

Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Richard A. Gerentine, and Deputy Chairman Donald J. Gregorius offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Safety Net program is a State program not required or funded by the Federal Government that provides welfare benefits to able-bodied single adults and others who are not eligible for the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program; and

WHEREAS, State Social Services Law mandates that the local share of the Safety Net program is to be funded by Towns and Cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1946 the State Legislature voted to continue the mandate that local governments fund a substantial share of this program, but put in place an option that Counties could vote to transfer this State mandated burden from the Town and City property tax levy, to the County property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, the local share of the Safety Net program was fifty percent of program costs, but as part of the 2011-12 State Budget, the Senate and Assembly voted to increase the local share of the Safety Net program to seventy-one percent of program costs, thus, dramatically increasing the burden on our Towns and the City of Kingston; and

WHEREAS, Section 72 of the New York State Social Services Law authorizes the Ulster County Legislature to direct that the cost of all or any part of the assistance and care for which the Towns and City are made responsible under the provisions of subdivisions one and two of section 69 of the Social Services law, be a charge on the County Social Services District administered under the direction of the County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive unveiled a plan contained in his 2013 Executive budget to have the County assume the entire local share of Safety Net expense over a three-year, phased-in implementation; and

WHEREAS, this plan called for the County assuming 33% of the total local share cost of the Safety Net Program in 2013, 66% of the total local cost in 2014, and 100% of the local cost in 2015; now, therefore be it

**Resolution No. 299      November 19, 2013**

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RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 72 of the Social Services Law, the County of Ulster hereby agrees to pay sixty-six percent of the local share of the Safety Net Costs effective January 1, 2014; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2015, the County of Ulster hereby agrees to pay one hundred percent of the local share of the cost of the Safety Net program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any outstanding charges yet to be paid to the County by any municipality for costs associated with the Safety Net Program shall continue to be due and owing, and shall be paid by the respective municipality; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to each Town Clerk in Ulster County and to the Mayor and Clerk of the City of Kingston within ten days after the adoption of this resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and the Commissioner of Finance are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to implement this resolution,

and moves its adoption

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21            NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Aiello and Harris)  
(Legislator Donaldson arrived at 7:27 PM)  
(Legislator Richard Parete arrived at 7:44 PM)

Passed Committee: Social Services on November 7, 2013

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on November 12, 2013

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

\$4,072,787.00 – 2014 ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS

\$6,693,170.00 – 2015 ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2013, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this  
19<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2013.

Approved by the County Executive this  
20<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2013.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

/s/ Michael P. Hein  
Michael P. Hein, County Executive