

Declaring May 15, 2013 “Mayday for Mandate Relief” And Urging The State To Adopt Laws That Do Not Impose Further Fiscal Stress On Local Governments And Taxpayers And Build Upon Recent Efforts To Reform Costly Unfunded Mandates

Referred to: The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Gregorius, Harris, Maio, Maloney, Provenzano and Rodriguez)

Chairman Bernardo and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Richard Gerentine, offer the following:

WHEREAS, counties are mandated to administer and finance dozens of state and federal programs; and

WHEREAS, many counties in New York State face significant fiscal challenges made worse by the recent recession and slow economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County’s fiscal challenges are also directly tied to state-imposed mandates and in recent years reduced state reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties has identified 9 state mandates that consume 90 percent of all county property taxes levied across the state (outside of New York City), representing over \$4 billion in county property taxes levied. These mandates include: Medicaid, Public Assistance Safety Net, Child Welfare Protective and Preventive Care, Special Education Pre-School, Early Intervention, Probation, Indigent Defense, Youth Detention, and Pensions; and

WHEREAS, these mandated and fixed employee costs can consume more than 80 percent of Ulster County’s total budget, leaving fewer local dollars that can be devoted to local programs and services; and

WHEREAS, these State mandates are the root cause of high county property and sales taxes in New York and have led to a decline in the delivery of important local services; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ulster County hereby declares May 15, 2013 to be “Mayday for Mandate Relief” to raise awareness that decisions made in Albany have a direct impact on the property tax levy and local community services here in Ulster County; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that Ulster County strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature to continue working to enact meaningful mandate relief; and, be it further

Resolution No. 133 May 14, 2013

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RESOLVED, that Ulster County calls on State Lawmakers to enact legislation preventing future unfunded mandates without corresponding state aid to pay for them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo; New York State Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos, Majority Co-Leader Jeff Klein, Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Finance Committee Chair John DeFrancisco, and Senators William Larkin, Jr., John Bonacic, Cecelia Tkaczyk and James Seward; New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Assembly Ways and Means Chair Herman D. Farrell, Jr. and Assemblymembers Kevin A. Cahill, Claudia Tenney, Frank K. Skartados, and Peter Lopez,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Gregorius)

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on May 7, 2013

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0239

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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 14th Day of May, 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 15th Day of May in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

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