

Directing The Ulster County Environmental Management Council To Coordinate Updating The County's Open Space And Parks Plan & Directing The Economic Development Committee To Study The Creation Of An Open Space/Parks Fund

Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Busick, Cummings, Dart, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Feldmann, Harris, Hathaway, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stoeckeler, Tipp and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County's diverse and natural resources are among the most beautiful in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes the importance of preserving open spaces, protecting wildlife and creating new recreational opportunities so present and future generations can enjoy and be guaranteed access to the County's scenic, recreational and natural resources.

RESOLVED, the Legislature hereby directs the Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) to coordinate the [review and updating of the County's Open Space and Parks Plan] from the 1970's and to present its findings, subject to approval by the Ulster County Planning Board, to the Chairman of the Legislature as soon as possible, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature also directs the following County departments: Planning, Buildings and Grounds, Highways and Bridges, Health and the Treasurer's Office to work with the EMC to update the County's Open Space and Parks Plan, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature directs the [EMC to include relevant information regarding bio-diversity, protecting water quality and resources, wetlands and sensitive ecosystems that transcend municipal] boundaries, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature directs the EMC to [work with] regional environmental and community groups to identify these natural resources, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature directs the EMC and Planning Departments to develop a program to [encourage all Ulster County Municipalities to develop their own Open Space Plans] and directs the EMC and Planning Department to oversee this process to harmonize these open space plans across municipal boundaries, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, the Planning Department and the EMC are directed to [seek grants and other funding] sources to defray the costs of updating the County's Open Space and Parks Plan, and

[FURTHER RESOLVED, the EMC is further directed to act as advisory committee to the Legislature on Open Space preservation issues and to present a report to the Chairman of the Legislature on this issue annually, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature directs the Economic Development/Education, Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee to study and make a recommendation on whether a special County fund should be created, possibly financed by assessing a fee on all real estate transactions, for open space preservation purchases and to create new County parks, and

FURTHER RESOLVED shall submit its findings to the Chairman of the Legislature as soon as possible,]

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28

NOES: 4

(Legislators Felicello, Gerentine,
Noonan, and Stock)

(Absent: Legislator Maloney)

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Legislator Harris motioned, seconded by Legislator Stock, to refer Resolution No. 84 back to the Environmental and Consumer Affairs Committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 15 NOES: 17
(Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Busick, Cummings,
DePew, Every, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway,
McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Stock and Tipp)
(Absent: Legislator Maloney)

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Lomita, to amend Resolution No. 84 as shown in [].

AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 29 NOES: 3
(Legislators Gerentine, Noonan & Stock)
(Absent: Legislator Maloney)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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