

**Amending The Rules Of Order To Prohibit Memorializing Resolutions**

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete and Rodriguez)

Legislator Richard A. Parete and Legislators Fabiano and Ronk offer the following:

WHEREAS, Monthly Legislative Session is conducted to consider and act on legislation that has a direct and significant impact on our County; and

WHEREAS, the Monthly Legislative Session agendas are often lengthy and contain essential business that often generates meaningful debate and requires substantial time; and

WHEREAS, Memorializing Resolutions can take an extraordinary amount of time to debate on the floor; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce the amount of time spent on the consideration of Memorializing Resolutions debate on the floor of the Ulster County Legislature on said resolutions was prohibited pursuant to Resolution No. 251 dated June 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, discussion of Memorializing Resolutions continues to consume substantial amounts of time during Standing Committee meetings taking away from valuable time which should be dedicated to the deliberation of Resolutions pertaining to county business; and

WHEREAS, it has long been the policy of the Ulster County Legislature to encourage the maximum public participation and input through Public Comment Periods before all Legislative meetings; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting Memorializing Resolutions does not preclude Legislators from contacting state and federal representatives through phone calls, emails, letters and petitions; and

WHEREAS, on many occasions, a member of the Ulster County Legislature has offered a letter expressing support or opposition of an issue and provided the opportunity for fellow Legislators to sign on to said letter; and

WHEREAS, support/opposition letters and other methods of addressing issues of a memorializing nature can have the same, if not a stronger, effect as a Regular Resolution; and

**Resolution No. 91      March 22, 2017**

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WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Ulster County Legislature to further amend Rule 3 of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature to prohibit memorializing resolutions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rule 3. Resolutions, Local Laws, Rules For Procedure for Presentation and Consideration, Section C. Procedure for the submission and consideration of Resolutions in Committee, subsection (c) Memorializing Resolutions, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(c). Memorializing Resolutions. Any resolution which memorializes the New York State Legislature, Congress of the United States, or any other body to take an action which will not require a home rule message, shall be **prohibited**. ~~submitted and considered in Committee in accordance with the procedures set forth in these Rules of Order. When presented for consideration at a Monthly or Special Meeting of the Legislature, Memorializing Resolutions shall not be debatable. Memorializing Resolutions shall, however, be amendable, may be referred to a Standing Committee of the Legislature, or may be withdrawn prior to a vote by the Legislative body;~~

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Rule 2, entitled "AMENDMENT OF RULES," of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature, this resolution and the amendment proposed herein shall be read at two consecutive meetings of the Ulster County Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this rule change shall take effect upon an affirmative vote of this body subsequent to two consecutive readings,

and moves its adoption.

**FIRST READING:    March 22, 2017**

**SECOND READING:**

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services as amended on  
March 13, 2017

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE