

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE REMOVES POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY'S PASSAGE OF IT'S 1% SALES TAX EXTENSION REQUEST

(Kingston, NY) Unwilling to let any barriers stand in their way, the Ulster County Legislature passed a Resolution at their October 22nd Legislative Session authorizing the payment of up to \$75,000 for the New York State Assembly to return to session prior to November 30, 2013 and complete it's unfinished business – specifically, the passage of Assembly Bill No. 5130.

Ways and Means Chairman Richard Gerentine (District 11, Town of Marlborough) originally proposed the funding at the October 15th Ways and Means meeting to “ensure the people of Ulster County are treated fairly by the New York State Assembly.” He noted the sales tax extension requests submitted as home rule requests from all other Counties in New York State were approved as part of the Assembly's 2013 session. “There again, we are showing that we are serious and that we are willing to offer some financial consideration to offset their cost. Hopefully it will move them and ensure our taxpayers are relieved of any undue cost.”

While Majority Leader Ken Ronk (District 13, Town of Shawangunk) ultimately supported the measure “to show there is nothing Ulster County won't do” to restore the estimated \$6 million dollars lost in Ulster County's sales tax revenue, he initially questioned “spending Ulster County taxpayer dollars to pay the State Legislature per diems and mileage to go back to Albany and do a job they decided not to do in June.”

Ways and Means Vice Chairman Donald Gregorius (District 23, Town of Woodstock) concurred “we've been told the Assemblyman would support this if we did what he wanted us to do which, in my opinion, we were doing anyway. We must do everything that we can to do for the people of Ulster County to save them tax money.”

The request to reconvene has the support of Assemblymen Pete Lopez and Frank Skatardos.

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