

**RESOLUTION NO. 235**

**ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN TO ADDRESS RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS AND TO ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE OPTIONS**

Introduced: 5/14/18

By Messrs. Signoracci, Feeney, Mss. Cunningham, Plotsky, Lekakis, Messrs. R. Joyce, O'Brien, Touchette, Ward, Burgdorf and Grimm:

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body seeks to establish the Hudson River Benefits Consortium (the "Consortium") pursuant to Article 47 of the New York State Insurance Law with health care coverage available for all participating government entities with a net savings to the taxpayers of Albany County and the other participating government entities, and

WHEREAS, A Temporary Health Benefits Steering Committee (the "Temporary HBSC") consisting of the Lead Sponsor of this enabling legislation, the County Executive, and the County Comptroller shall be established to initiate the necessary steps to establish the Consortium including reaching out to potential participants in the Consortium, and

WHEREAS, The Temporary HBSC shall oversee the examination of the benefits of a health benefits consortium involving potential participants in the consortium in such examination and provide guidance during the initial stages of creating the Consortium, and

WHEREAS, The Temporary HBSC shall be charged with taking any necessary steps to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Legal Services and an RFQ for a Plan Administrator, and

WHEREAS, The Consortium, once established, shall consist of a representative from (1) each participating governmental entity, (2) each union that represents a bargaining unit in any of the participating governmental entities, (3) one from the Albany County Executive, (4) one from the Albany County Comptroller, (5) one from the Chairman of the Albany County Legislature, (6) one from the Majority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, and (7) one from the Minority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the establishment of the Hudson River Benefits Consortium is hereby authorized and a Temporary Health Benefits Steering Committee is hereby established which shall exercise due diligence in taking the necessary steps to create a framework for the Consortium, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary HBSC shall report to this Honorable Body with recommendations as to the specific elements necessary to establish and implement the Consortium, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary HBSC shall oversee the preparation and release of Requests for Qualifications for legal services for both the establishment and operation of the Consortium within 60 days and a plan administrator to administer the health insurance within 120 days, with recommendations to the Albany County Legislature no later than 45 days after receipt of the proposals, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary HBSC shall investigate all potential funding sources including the state and federal governments, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following County governments and all local governmental entities located within those counties including but not limited to, cities, towns, villages, and school districts located within those counties with a view towards creating and participating in the Consortium – Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Greene, Hamilton, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Warren, Washington, and Westchester, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials and the other officials as set forth above.

*Referred to Personnel and Audit and Finance Committee – 5/14/18*

*Favorable Recommendation Personnel Committee – 5/30/18*

*Without Recommendation Audit and Finance Committee – 7/25/18*

*Referred to Audit and Finance Committee – 8/13/18*