

RESOLUTION NO. 85

REQUESTING THE ALBANY COUNTY DIVISION OF INFORMATION SERVICES PROVIDE A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR MEETINGS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Introduced: 2/9/16

By Messrs. Mendick, Burgdorf, Dawson, Drake, Grimm, Higgins, Mauriello and Ms. Mclean Lane

WHEREAS, The most fundamental purpose of any Legislative branch of government is to vote on and enact or reject resolutions, propositions, and legislation on behalf of the Legislature's constituents, and

WHEREAS, An accurate record of how Legislators vote on resolutions, propositions, and legislation is a crucial plank foundation of democracy because it ensures individual accountability, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature has historically only conducted and recorded roll call votes on certain measures such as Local Laws or Bond Resolutions, and

WHEREAS, Section 87(3)(a) of the New York State Public Officers Law clearly requires "a record of the final vote of each member in every agency proceeding in which the member votes.", and

WHEREAS, To bring the Albany County Legislature into compliance with the New York State Public Officers Law, a record must be kept on each Legislator's vote on all measures brought before this Honorable Body, and

WHEREAS, With the current number of County Legislators at 39 Members, a roll call vote on every resolution and local law would take a considerable amount of time, and

WHEREAS, The installation of an electronic voting system to expeditiously and accurately record the votes of every member of the Legislature would be in the public's best interest, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Division of Information Services is hereby requested to provide a plan for implementing electronic voting for the monthly meetings of the Albany County Legislature, including the hardware, software, and labor needed to accomplish the task, a proposed work schedule, an estimate of costs, and any other relevant information, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this plan shall be completed and transmitted to all County Legislators within 60 days from the adoption of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Management and Budget is requested to research grant opportunities that will cover the cost of implementing electronic voting and provide all such information to the Division of Information Services to be included in their plan described above, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward certified copies of said resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 2/9/16