

RESOLUTION NO. 83

TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR AMENDED RESOLUTIONS OR LOCAL LAWS

Introduced: 2/9/16

By Law Committee, Messrs. Mendick, Burgdorf, Dawson, Higgins, Mauriello, Mss. McLean Lane, Cunningham and Mr. Stevens:

WHEREAS, Currently when Resolutions and Local Laws are amended by a member of the Albany County Legislature, there is no way to define what is new language, what was old language, what has been deleted and what has been added, and

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body has, on occasion, amended Resolutions and Local Laws numerous times before coming to a final draft, and

WHEREAS, It is difficult to decipher all the changes and to make an accurate assessment of those changes, and

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body desires its Resolutions and Local Laws be as transparent as possible, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all Resolutions and Local Laws amended by adding or deleting existing language during the Legislative process and prior to a full vote of the Albany County Legislature shall be marked by the sponsor as follows:

- A. All new language added or inserted in a proposed Resolution or Local Law shall be underscored;
- B. All language to be deleted from a proposed Resolution or Local Law shall remain printed in its proper place and shall be enclosed in brackets;
- C. Whenever it is proposed to amend only part of a word and/or sentence, the whole of such word and/or sentence shall be printed in its proper place enclosed in black-faced brackets to indicate it shall be deleted and the new whole word and/or sentence as proposed shall be inserted and underscored;
- D. The above-described underline and bracket editing shall not be used to describe all of the changes made to the document from its inception but, instead, shall describe only those amendments proposed to be made to the most recent version of the Resolution or Local Law. For example, changes underlined or bracketed in version "C" of a document, will describe only the changes being made to the previous version ("B"), if any. Any changes made from version "A" to "B" will not be included. This is to avoid possible misunderstandings which could occur if changes were underlined and bracketed and then carried through multiple versions;

RESOLVED, that after a new Resolution or Local Law is voted out of committee a “clean” version of same shall be provided by the sponsor to Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel and to the Clerk of the Legislature for consideration by the Legislature, and be it further

RESOLVED, that if a pre-existing Resolution or Local Law is being modified then, after it is voted out of committee, a “marked up” version of same showing the amendments to the existing Resolution or Local Law shall be provided by the sponsor to Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel and to the Clerk of the Legislature for consideration by the Legislature, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the above changes will take effect immediately after the passage of this resolution, and, be it further

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

Referred to Law Committee. 2/9/16
Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/14/16