

RESOLUTION NO. 162

REQUIRING ANY RENEWAL OF THE ALBANY COUNTY HOTEL/MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX TO INCLUDE A FORMULA AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO FUND CULTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY OF ALBANY

Introduced: 4/13/15

By Messrs. Nichols, Bullock, Mayo, Higgins, Simpson, O'Brien and Beston:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax is currently six percent and generates more than \$7 million annually to fund three entities, the Albany County Civic Center, the Albany County Convention Center Authority and the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and

WHEREAS, Three percent of the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax does not require renewal while three percent of the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax requires regular reauthorization by New York State and Albany County, and

WHEREAS, Such renewal of the County's authorization to impose three percent of the six percent of the hotel/motel occupancy tax requires a Home Rule Request from the Albany County Legislature before such legislation is passed by the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate, and

WHEREAS, The revenue from the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax formula is shared on a percentage basis, regardless of how much revenue each percentage point generates annually for each of the three entities which benefit from the tax, and

WHEREAS, All three entities are located in Downtown Albany while most of the County's hotels and motels are located outside of the City of Albany, especially in the Town of Colonie, and

WHEREAS, Every municipality in Albany County is home to historically significant buildings and land and other property as well as culturally important arts organizations and other cultural assets that receive no annual funding from the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax, and

WHEREAS, It therefore would be more equitable and economically sound to utilize a portion of this revenue to support other tourism interests throughout the county by adjusting the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax formula to allow annual funding to include municipally-owned historic properties and non-profit organizations, and

WHEREAS, Adjusting the formula could be accomplished by reserving a portion of the excess revenue to fund such historic and culturally significant nonprofit organizations and municipally-owned historic properties countywide, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the policy of Albany County shall be that any hotel/motel occupancy tax formula shall include new language to allow the County Executive together with the County Legislature to adopt a process to provide funding from the hotel/motel occupancy tax, for use in funding that will include at least 25% of the total annual revenue designated for this use to be used exclusively in support of Albany County-owned historic property and the remainder to be allocated to support existing arts, cultural and historic preservation efforts throughout the county including but not limited to: the Albany Institute of History and Art, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Capital Repertoire Theater, the Ten Broeck Mansion, Historic Cherry Hill, the Underground Railroad, the Albany Center Gallery, the Pryun House, Historic Albany Foundation, the Albany Civic Theater, the Upstate Independent Filmmakers, the Upstate Artists Guild, the Albany Barn, Park Playhouse, Steamer 10, and other nonprofit or municipally owned entities deemed culturally and artistically significant by the County Legislature through an annual vote with approval by the County Executive, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Albany County Convention Center Authority submit annual audited revenue projections from the Albany County Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax each year to Albany County Comptroller, the County Executive and the County Legislature to assess future needs from hotel/motel taxes of each entity, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to all of the elected state officials who represent Albany County in the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate and the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 4/13/15