

**RESOLUTION NO. 369**

**ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBLE SAVINGS IN SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Introduced: 9/13/10

By Messrs. Steck, Clenahan, Audit and Finance Committee, Mr. Joyce, Public Works Committee, Messrs. Bullock, Cotrofeld, Dawson, Higgins and Scavo:

WHEREAS, Our leaders at the State level have long recognized that the number of and overlapping jurisdiction of municipal governments may be leading to inefficiencies in the provision of governmental services, and

WHEREAS, The public values having municipal governments that are close to and responsive to the people, knowledgeable of community problems, and mindful of local history and tradition, and

WHEREAS, Regionalization and shared services have long been touted as vehicles for preserving community-based government while at the same time allowed greater cost efficiencies to be achieved in municipal government, and

WHEREAS, The County government and other municipal governments are facing very difficult budgetary challenges, and

WHEREAS, The status quo of government financing is becoming increasingly untenable, and

WHEREAS, It is the judgment of the Albany County Legislature that the time has come to thoroughly investigate and gather the facts and figures necessary to generate informed discussion as to whether regionalization and shared services truly present a realistic opportunity to achieve greater cost efficiencies in government, and thus better enable municipal government to act in the best interest of the residents of Albany County, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that a Commission shall be established to study and report on possible cost efficiencies that may be achieved through regionalization and shared services, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the objectives of the Commission shall include but not be limited to:

1. Examining the budgets of the County and of the various municipalities in Albany County, including School Districts, to investigate whether the possibility for regionalization and shared services exists;
2. Identifying specific shared services or regionalization programs;
3. Determining what cost savings, if any, could realistically be achieved through specific shared services and regionalization programs;
4. Minimizing the adverse impact, if any, that such proposals could have on public employment in Albany County;
5. Determining what economic benefits might arise from implementation of such proposals,

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That membership on the Commission shall be representative of the various Cities and Towns in Albany County and shall consist of eleven members including a Chairperson, which shall be appointed by the Albany County Legislature upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Legislature, after consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That among the aforementioned eleven members shall be the following five members: the Budget Director of Albany County, or his designee, the Budget Director of the City of Albany, or his designee, a Business Manager of an urban school district in Albany County, a duly authorized representative of the employees of Albany County, and a duly authorized representative of employees of the government of a Town or suburban School District in Albany County, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission, called the Special Legislative Commission on Shared Services, shall have all the powers and duties of a standing committee of the Albany County Legislature pursuant to Section 203(f) of the Albany County Charter and the rules of the County Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, prior to issuing its report to the Albany County Legislature, the Commission shall schedule four public informational meetings (hearings) at different locations in Albany County to solicit the views of the public concerning the issues raised in this resolution, 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.

*Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 9/13/10*

*Referred to Public Works Committee. 10/12/10*

*Adopted by unanimous vote. 2/14/11*