

## RESOLUTION NO. 169

### REQUESTING THE NYS STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO PERMIT MUNICIPALITIES TO REINSTITUTE SALES TAX FREE WEEKS ON CLOTHING AND SHOES

Introduced: 5/8/06

By Messrs. Domalewicz, Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Clay, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cunningham, Dawson, Ethier, Feeney, Frederick, Gordon, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Messercola, Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer, Steck, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature has enacted every sales tax free week eliminating the local 4% tax on clothing and shoes since the State first gave counties that option starting in 1997, and

WHEREAS, The opportunity for counties and cities to participate in the weeklong sales tax exempt periods ended when the State Legislature decided instead to permanently rescind its 4% sales tax on these items starting April 1st this year, and

WHEREAS, The State Legislature has offered counties the option to follow its lead, but many cannot afford the loss of revenue that would result from rescinding taxes year-round on the sale of clothes and footwear costing \$110 or less, and

WHEREAS, Repeal of the tax would cost Albany County and its municipalities \$20 million in annual revenues – \$12 million to Albany County and another \$8 million to the three cities, 10 towns and six villages in the county that share 40% of the sales tax distribution based on population, and

WHEREAS, To replace this loss, local governments likely would be forced to raise property taxes or cut vital services, and

WHEREAS, The tax free weeks coincided with the back-to-school and post-holiday shopping periods and had become popular events anticipated and welcomed by consumers, especially low and moderate-income families, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature requests the New York State Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation permitting municipalities at local option to reinstitute the sales tax free weeks on items of clothing and footwear costing up to \$110, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator Neil Breslin, Assemblymen Ronald Canestrari, John McEneny, Robert Reilly and Pat Casale and to the appropriate County Officials.

*Adopted by voice vote. 5/8/06*