

RESOLUTION NO. 128

URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING RELIEF TO THE CITY OF ALBANY

Introduced: 4/10/06

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

WHEREAS, With nine approved charter schools, the City of Albany has 10% of the total charter schools in the entire State and has become the State's charter school laboratory with taxpayers footing the bill, and

WHEREAS, For purposes of comparison, if charter schools were opened at the same rate in New York City, it would have more than 800 charter schools, and

WHEREAS, Albany taxpayers are now supporting two school systems with no say over how charter schools are approved or operated, and

WHEREAS, Next year the Albany school district will be forced to support 27 schools on a budget intended for 18, and

WHEREAS, The District is further penalized by state aid rules governing per-pupil operating costs that reimburse the district on expense figures that are two years old but require the district to fund charter schools at current year expense levels, and

WHEREAS, During the past five years through January 2006, some 575 students have returned from charter schools to the Albany public schools, forcing the district to constantly shift staff and resources because of drastically fluctuating enrollments, and

WHEREAS, Charter school costs will absorb \$22 million of the district's 2006-2007 budget, which is more than double the amount paid this year, and could result in a double digit tax levy increase and dozens of layoffs, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature urges the State Legislature to support charter funding relief for the City of Albany, and, be it further

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

Adopted by voice vote. 4/10/06