

# LATE-FILE

REFERRED TO:

FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -20

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED MEDICAID COST-SHIFT AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PRESERVE THE ZERO PERCENT MEDICAID GROWTH CAP

WHEREAS: When created by the federal government in 1966, this health insurance program for the poor and disabled was intended to be funded by the Federal and State governments, but New York State opted to force counties to pay half the State's share; and

WHEREAS: The required County and New York City payment is now \$7.6 billion annually; and

WHEREAS: The local share of Medicaid funding paid in New York is the highest of any state in the country, and is more than what 43 individual states pay in state share for their Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS: This large local funding share for Medicaid and other state programs is a major contributor to New York's high local tax burden compared to other states; and

WHEREAS: In 2005, the Governor and legislative leaders recognized the fiscal burden the financing of Medicaid is for local taxpayers and initiated steps to relieve part of that burden by capping the growth in local costs in this program; and

WHEREAS: One of the most prominent property tax reduction and mandate relief initiatives in state history was Governor Cuomo's establishment of the zero percent Medicaid growth cap in 2015; and

WHEREAS: Due to rising costs of health services and pharmaceuticals, and due to New York State's expansion of Medicaid services and mandatory raises for health care workers, the Medicaid budget is facing billions of dollars in annual deficits over the next several years; and

WHEREAS: The Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation is proposing a variety of ways to address this fiscal shortfall, including cost-shifting the State's financial responsibilities onto county property taxpayers by:

- Taking county governments' federal enhanced Medicaid match savings;
- Forcing counties to pay for Medicaid growth if counties breach the state property tax cap;
- Shifting the local share of Medicaid growth above 3% to counties, if counties cannot contain costs under 3%; and

WHEREAS: Counties do not have the tools nor authority to control the Medicaid program growth; some of these limitations include:

- The ability to audit the Medicaid program;
- The ability to control the cost of prescription drugs;
- The ability to set provider reimbursement rates;
- The ability to modify eligibility and benefit levels for Medicaid recipients;
- The ability to control changing demographics across the state;
- The ability to control provider contracts; and

WHEREAS: If State experts in the Medicaid program are unable to develop solutions to control growth in the Medicaid program, it will be impossible for counties to do so, since they do not have this authority to control costs; and

WHEREAS: If enacted, the Governor's proposals will, in effect, nullify the property tax cap; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature opposes the cost-shifts and the taking of eFMAP federal funds for counties proposed by the Governor, and urges the Governor and legislative leaders to maintain the zero percent Medicaid growth cap for counties and New York City, as they address state budget shortfalls in order to keep downward pressure on the local tax burden; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Clerk of the Tioga County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay, Senator Fred Akshar, and Assemblyman Chris Friend.

REFERRED TO:

LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. -20

HOME RULE REQUEST IN SUPPORT OF  
S7559/A9725: EXTENDING THE CURRENT AND  
IMPOSING ADDITIONAL SALES AND  
COMPENSATING USE TAXES BY THE  
COUNTY OF TIOGA

WHEREAS: The continuation of previously authorized additional sources of revenue is required to enable counties, such as Tioga County to meet the ever-increasing costs of delivering essential governmental services to their citizens without undue reliance on local property taxes; and

WHEREAS: State Legislative authority is needed to extend the current sales and compensating use taxes for the County of Tioga at the same level and upon the same terms and conditions as now currently exist; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature hereby requests the enactment of Senate Bill number S7559 and Assembly Bill number A9725 entitled "An Act to Amend the Tax Law in relation to extending the authorization of the County of Tioga to impose an additional one percent of sales and compensating use taxes until November 30, 2022".