

Human Resources Committee
March 18, 2008

**Human Resources Committee
Special Meeting
March 18, 2008
5:00 p.m.
Courthouse Conference Room**

APPROVED 4-3-08

Present: J. Dennis, M. Sigler, M. Koplinka-Loehr (temporary appointment)
Excused: C. Chock
Absent: D. Kiefer, L. McBean-Clairborne
Staff: K. Fuller, Legislature Office

Call to Order

Mr. Dennis called the meeting to order 5:06 p.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. – URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE
S6649/A9894 – AN ACT IN RELATION TO AFFECTING THE
HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
CERTAIN RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Dennis said previous actions by the Legislature has determined the health insurance benefits for Tompkins County retirees and is presently discussing the possibility of revising plans. He explained that the State legislature would lock the County into whatever coverage is offered at the present time.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the State bill and how it could adversely effect counties and retirees alike.

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

WHEREAS, counties and all other municipal employers are finding themselves overburdened by the skyrocketing cost of health care coverage, and

WHEREAS, for the period May 1, 2008, to May 15, 2009, proposed legislation S6649 and A9894 – An Act in relation to affecting the health insurance benefits and contributions of certain retired public employees, will prohibit counties and all municipal employers from diminishing the health insurance benefits, or the contributions made by the municipal employers for such benefits for public retirees unless a corresponding diminution of benefits or contributions is affected from the present level for active employees, and

WHEREAS, the broad language contained in the bill, effectively locking in all municipal employers to the existing benefit structure and contribution level for health insurance for retirees, unduly eliminates potential cost savings options of local governments' desperately seeking ways to meet the financial challenges they all face, and

WHEREAS, the language prohibiting the diminution of employer contributions would not allow a public employer to explore other more cost effective health insurance coverage options, including municipal health insurance cooperatives, which may result in savings to the taxpayers, even if these options are largely identical in scope to those currently received by the retiree, and

WHEREAS, this bill would effectively prohibit local governments from seeking to manage prescription drug benefit costs, and

WHEREAS, this bill is too broad in its approach and would tie the hands of all local governments attempting to maintain its level of health care coverage, while at the same time reducing the cost to the

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local taxpayers through innovative application of available health care resources for its retirees, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, That Tompkins County urges the State Legislature to oppose S6649 and A9894 – An Act in relation to affecting the health insurance benefits and contributions of certain retired public employees,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Paterson, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, TC Legislature Office