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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

1999 JAN 19 A 9:44

**A RESOLUTION BY GREENAN, LARSON, RANZENHOFER, MARSHALL,
WEINSTEIN & CHASE**

**POSSIBLE SAVINGS THROUGH REGIONALIZED SELF-INSURED
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, Erie County has expressed its support of the concept of regionalism through the appropriation of funds in the 1997, 1998 and 1999 county budgets for regionalism grants, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has also introduced and approved legislation forming a Erie-Niagara Counties Regionalism Committee to help promote better communication and regional thinking between the two counties, and

WHEREAS, Erie County has also initiated a number of studies of departmental consolidation including, but not limited to, the possible consolidation of the Department of Health and ECMC, the possible consolidation of the Sheriff's Department and Correctional Facility, and the possible consolidation of the Sheriff's Department and Youth Detention Center, and

WHEREAS, Erie County and many other municipal governments within the county are self-insured for workers' compensation, presenting another area of possible consolidation and regional cooperation that could yield savings to county and municipal taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, savings could be realized through the consolidation of claims paying processes and various other administrative functions. In addition, savings could also be realized from: the ability to put more effective claim review and challenge process into effect and the ability to establish a countywide rehabilitation and back-to-work program(s)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby reaffirm its support for regionalism efforts between county and municipal governments as a means of providing better services at a lower cost to taxpayers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the consolidation of municipal workers' compensation self-insured programs into one countywide program could yield potential savings as well as a higher quality of care for injured employees, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby express its support for the investigation of the possible regionalization of governmental self-insured workers' compensation insurance programs into one countywide self-insured program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby request County Attorney Kenneth Schoetz and Budget Director Kenneth Kruly to work investigate the possible regionalization of county and municipal self-insured Workers' Compensation insurance, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to County Attorney Kenneth Schoetz, Budget Director Kenneth Kruly and Association of Erie County Governments.

JOHN W. GREENAN
9th District

DALE W. LARSON
17TH District

MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER
16TH District

FREDERICK J. MARSHALL
13th District

BARRY A. WEINSTEIN, M.D.
15TH District

JEANNE Z. CHASE
12th District

Fiscal Impact: To be determined.