

Suspension to Finance + Management Committee

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS SWANICK, PEOPLES, KUWIK, FITZPATRICK, HOLT,
FISHER, OLMA, DEBENEDETTI, DUSZA & MARINELLI

3-17

**RE: STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF INCREASING THE MAXIMUM
ALLOWABLE INCOME LEVEL FOR THE COUNTY'S SENIOR
CITIZEN REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature maintains an interest in reducing the tax burden on homeowners throughout Erie County and have demonstrated this fact through a three-year freeze on the county's property tax levy, and through a reduction in the tax levy authorized through adoption of the 1999 Erie County budget, and

WHEREAS, the tax burden among homeowners remains high, particularly among segments of our population least able to afford the cost, including senior citizens, and

WHEREAS, New York State has authorized local governments to increase the maximum allowable income level for residents to qualify for a county real property tax exemption, and

WHEREAS, because in addition to other sources, the county is reliant upon the property tax as a means by which the county's budget is brought into balance, it would be necessary for the Legislature to receive testimony from the Division of Budget, Management and Finance to ascertain the financial impact upon the county of raising the income ceiling for qualification for this exemption,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby reaffirm its long-standing interest in minimizing the tax burden placed upon property owners in Erie County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby call upon representatives of the Erie County Division of Budget, Management and Finance and the Erie County Division of Real Property Taxation to appear at a future meeting of the Legislature's Finance and Management Committee to discuss the financial impact upon Erie County of increasing the maximum allowable income level for residents to qualify for an Erie County senior citizen real property tax exemption, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to County Executive Dennis T. Gorski, Budget Director Kenneth C. Kruly and to Deputy Finance Commissioner for Real Property Taxation Joseph Maciejewski.

CHARLES M. SWANICK

CRYSTAL D. PEOPLES

EDWARD J. KUWIK

MICHAEL A. FITZPATRICK

GEORGE A. HOLT, JR.

JUDITH P. FISHER

GREGORY B. OLMA

ALBERT DEBENEDETTI

RAYMOND K. DUSZA

LYNN M. MARINELLI

Fiscal Impact: To be Determined.