

New York State Assembly 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

# committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

William B. Magnarelli Chairman



Sheldon Silver Speaker

December 15, 2011

Honorable Sheldon Silver Speaker of the Assembly Legislative Office Building, Room 932 Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2011 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Local Governments.

Many important issues were addressed this year by the Committee, including a cap on local property taxes, mandate relief, legislation authorizing the creation of land banks and locally specific legislation in order to assist municipalities across the State. This report describes the legislative actions and major issues considered by the Committee. It sets forth the Committee's goals for the continued support of municipalities and residents throughout the State.

I share with you an appreciation for the important role local governments play in providing essential services to the residents of this State and commend you for the support and leadership you have provided the Local Governments Committee in its pursuit to address issues facing New York's municipalities. With your assistance, the Committee will continue to focus on the needs of local governments.

Sincerely,

William B. Magnarelli, Chairman Assembly Standing Committee on Local Governments

# **2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

# OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

#### William B. Magnarelli, Chairman

#### **Committee Members**

David F. Gantt William Magee Ellen Jaffee Michele Titus Philip Ramos Michelle Schimel William Boyland Jr. Addie J. Russell George Latimer Dennis Gabryszak Mark Schroeder Harry Bronson Tony Jordan Annie Rabbitt Marcus Molinaro Michael Fitzpatrick Thomas McKevitt Kevin Smardz

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# I. INTRODUCTION

The Assembly Standing Committee on Local Governments considers the legislative needs of New York State's local governments, including counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire districts, and various other special districts. The Committee's goals are to monitor the needs of local governments, develop legislative remedies to these needs, and research new proposals that will enable local governments to better serve the citizens of New York State. The Committee strives to see the enactment of laws that will further improve local governments' abilities to address their unique problems, as well as preventing the enactment of laws that would impede local governments' ability to deliver services. The Committee is also interested in assisting local governments weather these difficult economic times by considering legislation that will provide mechanisms for local governments to remain financially solvent.

The Committee considers legislation that proposes to amend the General Municipal, Municipal Home Rule, Local Finance, County, Town, Village, Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Laws. Since the structure, powers and scope of local governments is broad, the Committee's concerns cover a wide range. Home rule is also addressed. These bills deal with issues specific to a certain local government's jurisdiction and are intended to remedy a specific local concern. Through the use of home rule legislation to solve individual local needs, the Committee has helped resolve many unique problems and has enabled local governments all over the State to serve their citizens better.

# **II. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Property Tax Cap Hearing**

The Assembly Standing Committees on Local Governments, Real Property Taxation, Cities, Education and Ways and Means held a public hearing to examine Governor Cuomo's proposed property tax cap. The committees heard testimony explaining how local governments, which for the purposes of the tax cap would include counties, cities, towns, villages, fire and other special districts, excluding New York City, and school districts would be impacted by a limit of real property tax levies to a yearover-year growth of no more than two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Property taxes are the largest source of revenue collected by local governments and school districts. Witnesses discussed what effects a property tax cap would have on property owners, local governments and school districts and evaluated alternative proposals that would allow property owners tax relief while ensuring that vital services and benefits are maintained.

Testimony from the hearing also revealed that municipalities and school districts support the concept of a property tax cap, but shared concerns about being able to sustain essential services with a two-percent tax cap without significant mandate relief and other assistance from the State.

#### Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 Hearing

The Committee on Local Governments and the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions sought testimony on the compliance of local public authorities with the Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 (PARA). This hearing provided an opportunity for the Committees to examine the relationship between municipal governments and local development corporations and other local authorities and how the State impacts local economic development activities.

#### **Budget Implementation Hearing**

The Local Governments Committee, Real Property Taxation Committee and Cities Committee held a joint public hearing to examine the implementation of the 2011-2012 Budget and the impact of State aid on local governments.

Testimony from the hearing highlighted the need for Legislative intervention in order to combat the rising cost of local governments' contribution to public pensions, cuts in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM), and the burden of compulsory binding arbitration for public employers. The testimony also revealed the need of some municipalities to get assistance to modernize their technology infrastructure.

# **III. MAJOR ISSUES AND LEGISLATION OF 2011**

#### A. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID – ENACTED BUDGET

New York State continued to face an economic crisis when adopting the 2011-2012 State Budget. Fortunately, allocations were made to local governments for unrestricted aid and for grants to help municipalities achieve efficiencies and share services.

#### Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM)

Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding is direct general purpose aid provided to towns, villages and cities. AIM funding for State Fiscal Year 2011-2012 included a total of approximately \$714.7 million for the AIM program. Towns received approximately \$47.8 million and villages received approximately \$19.8 million.

#### New Local Government Efficiency Programs

The 2011-2012 Budget added three new competitive grant programs to be administered by the Department of State to provide assistance and incentive for local governments to consolidate, dissolve and share services.

Citizen Empowerment Tax Credits will provide annual aid to the surviving municipalities following a consolidation or dissolution. The aid will equal fifteen percent of the new entity's tax levy, up to \$1 million. At least seventy percent of the aid will be required to be used for direct property tax relief.

The Citizens Re-organization Empowerment Grants will provide grants, up to \$100,000, to local governments to pay for costs associated with studies and plans related to local government reorganization measures made pursuant to Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law.

The Local Government Performance and Efficiency Program will provide grants of \$25 per resident, up to \$5 million, to local governments that have improved the overall efficiency of their operations to reduce property taxes through consolidations, dissolutions, mergers, shared services and other efficiencies.

The 2011-2012 Budget also changed the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program to streamline it and consolidate all the grant categories into one. The program would continue to provide grants to counties, cities, towns, villages, special improvement districts, fire districts, library districts, water authorities, sewer authorities, regional planning and development boards, school districts, and, in certain instances, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that merge or share services. Grants are intended to cover costs associated with mergers, consolidations, cooperative agreements, dissolutions and shared services including legal and consultant services, feasibility studies and capital investments.

### **<u>B. Property Tax Cap and Mandate Relief</u>** (A.8518 Lopez, V; Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011)

# Limit upon real property tax levies by local governments and Mandate Relief

This bill was referred to Ways and Means and creates a property tax cap and enacts mandate relief for local governments, as well as strengthening rent regulation laws.

The property tax cap prohibits any local government, which includes counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire districts and all other special districts, from levying real property taxes that would exceed the prior year's levy by two percent or exceed the prior year's levy by the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. The property tax cap does not apply to New York City. A few specific exemptions and adjustments are included when determining which portion of real property taxes are used to determine the property tax levy limit.

The legislation provides an override mechanism which will allow a local government or school district to adopt a budget that would require a tax levy above the tax cap. A municipal governing body would need to adopt a local law, or in the case of a fire or special district adopt a resolution, with approval from sixty percent of the legislative body. A school district would need to obtain approval to exceed the tax cap from at least sixty percent of the voters.

#### Mandate Relief

The legislation also includes mandate relief provisions that provide local governments with savings and relief from certain State regulatory and statutory mandates in order to ultimately bring savings to taxpayers.

Local governments and school districts across the State can expect to realize a savings of approximately \$125 million as a result of the mandate relief package included in this legislation.

In addition, the legislation includes the creation of a Mandate Relief Council within the Executive Department that will continue to further identify State mandates that can be amended or eliminated. The Council will also consider petitions from local governments seeking to modify their implementation of a State regulatory mandate that has been imposed in an unsound, unduly burdensome or costly manner.

## C. MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# **Town and Village of Ossining Court Merger** (A.8210-A Galef; Chapter 146 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation authorizes the Village of Ossining to adopt a resolution that abolishes the village court and office of village justice, provided that the Town of Ossining adopts a resolution recognizing the abolishment of such village court. In the event that such village court is abolished, the Town of Ossining is required to have three town justices. The third office of town justice is to be filled at the regular election immediately prior to the date of abolition of the office of village court of the Village of Ossining.

### <u>Lewis County Town Justice</u> (A.7433 Blankenbush; Chapter 145 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill allows the Towns of Harrisburg, Montague and Pinckney in Lewis County to elect a single town justice to preside over the courts of such towns, pursuant to the Uniform Justice Court Act. Prior to the introduction of this legislation, the Towns of Harrisburg, Montague and Pinckney conducted a study and held public hearings based on the findings of the study. The Towns adopted a joint resolution outlining a plan for the merger. The plan provides for the abolition of the existing town justice positions and requires the election of a single town justice for the Towns.

# <u>Coroner Jurisdiction</u> (A.2688 Pretlow; Passed Assembly)

The County Law provides that only the coroner or medical examiner of the county where a death has occurred has jurisdiction to investigate that death. In certain instances, crime victims found near death in one county will be rushed by police or ambulance to a hospital in an adjoining county because that hospital is the nearest with adequate trauma facilities. In the event of the patient's death, the homicide is prosecuted in the county where the crime occurred. While current law only gives jurisdiction to the coroner of the county in which the hospital is located, this legislation would provide coroners of the county where the crime occurred with concurrent jurisdiction during investigations and autopsies.

#### **D. MUNICIPAL FINANCES**

# <u>Private Activity Bond Allocation</u> (A.6306 Magnarelli; Chapter 71 of the Laws of 2011)

The system for multi-year funding of large development projects has served New York well. Bond issuers around the State are familiar with the existing process. The statutory continuation of this process provides the most efficient approach to the allocation of the State's bond volume cap, which is established by the federal government. One-third of the statewide allocation is distributed to Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs); one-third to State agencies; and one-third to a statewide bond reserve, for use by both State and local agencies and local governments. This legislation's multi-year provision permits projects to proceed by providing funds in the actual year they are needed. This legislation also continues the development of much-needed affordable housing for all New Yorkers, and helps support construction activity and jobs.

#### **Installment Loans** (A.6307 Magnarelli; Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation extends, until September 30, 2014 the provisions of Chapter 492 of the Laws of 1993 authorizing municipalities to issue bonds or notes evidencing installment loans to New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation in order to obtain financial assistance from the water pollution control revolving fund.

#### **<u>Installment Bonds</u>** (A.6441 Roberts; Chapter 69 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation extends, until September 30, 2014 the provisions of Chapter 581 of the Laws of 2005 authorizing local governments and public benefit corporations to issue statutory installment bonds with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

#### **Refunding Bonds**

#### (A.6442 Roberts; Chapter 72 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation extends, until September 30, 2014, the provisions of Chapter 629 of the Laws of 2005 authorizing local governments and public benefit corporations to refinance statutory installment bonds with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

# <u>Erie County Private Bond Sales</u> (A.4215 Schimminger; Chapter 63 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation extends, until June 30, 2012, the authority for the underwriting or sale of Erie County bonds or notes at private sale. This legislation provides Erie County with additional fiscal flexibility by permitting the County to determine the timing and nature of bond sales.

# <u>Municipal Bidding</u> (A.5830 Gunther; Passed Assembly and Senate)

This legislation changes municipal procurement practices by expanding the ability of local governments to "piggyback" on public works contracts procured by any county of the State.

#### **Best Value**

# (A.7357-A Heastie; Passed Assembly and Senate)

This legislation requires municipalities to award certain contracts on the basis of "best value" as defined in § 163 of the State Finance Law, rather than to the lowest responsible bidder. The legislation applies to purchase contracts, including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase project necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursuant to article eight of the Labor Law.

#### **E. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS**

# Land Installment Purchase Obligations (A.7061-A Thiele; Chapter 200 of the Laws of 2011)

Many local governments in New York State have had a long standing interest in developing and implementing strategies designed to protect agriculture, open space, scenic and cultural land. The ability to issue land installment purchase obligations provides local governments with a cost effective means to purchase land for the purpose of open space and other conservation. Additionally, land installment purchase obligations give municipalities a method to offer sellers payments that will reduce certain taxes, including capital gains taxes.

This bill extends the land installment purchase obligations authorized by Chapter 456 of 2000 through July 31, 2021 and, in doing so, ensures that local governments will continue to have an effective tool to protect important natural resources through open space conservation.

#### <u>Audit Responses</u> (A.3214 Sweeney; Passed Assembly)

Audit reports are important tools for the efficient management of local governments. They are most effective when local officials promptly focus on audit findings and recommendations and address any deficiencies. Written responses also help foster greater accountability to the taxpayers of local governments.

This legislation would require municipalities, IDAs, and special districts to respond in writing to audits performed by the Office of the State Comptroller or to external audits performed by independent public accountants.

# **Industrial Development Agency Financing** (A.7386 Morelle; Chapter 478 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill authorizes industrial development agencies to finance an "automobile racing facility" by an industrial development agency. It defines such facility to mean any closed-course motor-sports complex and its ancillary grounds with at least fifty thousand fixed seats for race patrons and hosts at least one NASCAR sprint cup series race and at least two other nationally recognized racing events each calendar year.

# <u>Ward System Elections</u> (A.2116 McEneny; Passed Assembly)

Historically, the phrase "ward system" has been very closely associated with cities. Since towns are governed by town boards made up of elected council members, it would be more consistent to call the system a council district system instead of a ward system. This legislation would amend the Town Law to replace the phrase "ward system" with "council district system."

# <u>Treasure Lake/Davies Dam Improvement District</u> (A.8337 Gunther; Chapter 358 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill authorizes the establishment of a special improvement district to be known as the "Treasure Lake/Davies Dam Improvement District." The purpose of the district is to provide for the repair, reconstruction, and maintenance of the Treasure Lake/Davies Dam and spillway to prevent dam failure or breach. The costs and expenses of the operation of the Treasure Lake/Davies Dam improvement district is required to be paid through the levy of special assessments upon all lots or parcels of land within the boundaries of such district.

# <u>Lake Louise Marie Dam Improvement District</u> (A.8338 Gunther; Chapter 359 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill authorizes the establishment of a special improvement district to be known as the "Lake Louise Marie Dam Improvement District." The purpose of the district is to provide for the repair, reconstruction, and maintenance of the Lake Louise Marie Dam and spillway to prevent dam failure or breach. The costs and expenses of the operation of the Lake Louise Marie Dam improvement district is required to be paid through the levy of special assessments upon all lots or parcels of land within the boundaries of such district.

# <u>Chenango County Foreign Trade Zones</u> (A.7248 Crouch; Chapter 569 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill authorizes Chenango County to apply to the federal government to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones within the County in order to promote commerce and economic development.

#### F. EMERGENCY SERVICES

# <u>Multiple Municipality Ambulance Coverage</u> (A.7196 Gabryszak; Chapter 471 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill allows emergency medical responders to provide pre-hospital treatment and transportation for sick or injured persons within the boundaries of multiple municipalities if emergency services are provided jointly by the municipalities.

# <u>Membership in Fire Organization</u> (A.7303 Magee; Chapter 373 of the Laws of 2011)

The process for membership in a fire company involves many different steps. This legislation will ensure that volunteer firefighters are not denied benefits due to an administrative error or oversight in the membership process.

# **<u>Fire District Commissioner Dereliction of Duty</u>** (A.4858 Galef; Chapter 462 of the Laws of 2011)

Fire district commissioners perform many essential roles in the governing of their districts. In most cases, if a quorum of commissioners is not present, business cannot be conducted. For this reason, fire commissioner attendance is very important. There has been some confusion as to whether or not commissioners may be removed for excessive, unexcused absences. The Public Officers Law permits removal due to "malversation" and "malfeasance."

This legislation would authorize the removal of fire commissioners for dereliction of duty. Dereliction would include, but not be limited to, excessive and unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings.

# <u>Fallen Firefighter Memorial</u> (A.5933 Weisenberg; Passed Assembly)

This legislation modifies the process for determining eligibility for inclusion on the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial. It requires the name of any volunteer firefighter who was determined by an authoritative agency (including, but not limited to, the Workers Compensation Board, The Federal Department of Justice, and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, or pursuant to the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law) to have died in the line of duty, to have their name inscribed on the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial. These provisions apply to deaths occurring before, on or after the effective date of this act.

#### **G. Duties of Local Governments**

# <u>School District Confirmation</u> (A.4580 Englebright; Passed Assembly)

An important factor in determining whether to purchase a home is often school district location. For newly-constructed homes, some developers have guessed as to the likely school district the parcels are located in without knowing for sure. This legislation would authorize municipal planning boards to require the developers of a proposed subdivision to apply for and receive notification from a school district as to whether such parcel is located within the school district's boundaries.

# Accommodating the use of Renewable Energy Sources (A.314 Paulin; Passed Assembly)

This legislation would require that when a town or village creates zoning and planning regulations, they consider, in addition to other established factors, the accommodation of renewable energy sources.

# **IV. OTHER ENACTED LEGISLATION**

# Land Banks (A.373-A Hoyt; Chapter 257 of the Laws of 2011)

Many communities across the State, and particularly many upstate cities, are plagued by vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties. These properties often foster illicit and dangerous activities and reduce the property values of the surrounding neighborhood.

This legislation authorizes the creation of land banks, which will be a new tool for local governments to address the scourge of urban blight by establishing procedures to acquire vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties and converting the properties to productive use.

A local government that enforces delinquent taxes is authorized to apply to Empire State Development for permission to create a land bank. The land bank would be organized as a Type-C not-for-profit corporation. A land bank will be authorized to take title to property, and will be given priority and other considerations in the tax lien and foreclosure process. All transactions and property transfers undertaken by a land bank will be required to be open to the public and available for review. The legislation authorized the creation of up to ten Land Banks throughout the State.

# **<u>Port Jefferson Parkland</u>** (A.4021 Englebright; Chapter 39 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation discontinues, alienates and conveys certain parkland owned by the Village of Port Jefferson on the condition that the Village acquire and dedicate as parklands the replacement lands that are described in the legislation. If the replacement lands to be acquired and dedicated pursuant to this legislation are not of equal or greater fair market value to the parklands to be discontinued, the Village is required to acquire and dedicate additional lands for parkland and/or make capital improvements to its existing park and recreational facilities equal to such difference.

## <u>Nassau County Parkland Transfer</u> (A.129 Montesano; Chapter 38 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation authorizes Nassau County to transfer ownership of certain parklands to Conservation Partners, LLC. The terms of the transfer include the placement of a conservation easement on the property prohibiting any future development. The authorization is only effective upon the condition that on or before the alienation of the parkland, the County acquires and dedicates as parkland additional replacement land that is of equal or greater fair market value than the parkland being conveyed. In the event that the replacement land is not equal or greater than the fair market value of the conveyed land, the County would be required to acquire and dedicate additional land as parkland and/or make capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities equal to such difference.

# <u>Saranac Lake Parkland Easement</u> (A.4297 Duprey; Chapter 64 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation allows the Village of Saranac Lake to establish easements on and under certain village parklands for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining a municipal water line and to alienate parkland for a municipal water tower facility. Upon completion of the water main construction, the land is required to be returned to its original condition and continued to be used as parkland. The authorization granted pursuant to this act is only effective on the condition that the Village of Saranac Lake acquire and dedicate as parkland, additional land, which is identified in the bill, that is of greater or equal fair market value to the easements and parkland to be discontinued.

### <u>North Hempstead Parkland</u> (A.5852 McKevitt; Chapter 331 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation authorizes the Town of North Hempstead to convey certain parklands to the Carle Place Water District. The authorization is only effective on the condition that the Town dedicate an amount equal to or greater than the fair market value of the property being alienated for the acquisition of additional parkland and/or capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities.

# <u>Webster Parkland</u> (A.6019 Johns; Chapter 194 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation allows the Town of Webster to discontinue, alienate, sell and convey certain parklands on the condition that replacement lands, which are described in the legislation, are acquired and dedicated as parkland and are of equal or greater fair market value than the parklands to be discontinued.

# **Municipally Owned Computer Donations** (A.8124 Jaffee; Chapter 390 of the Laws of 2011)

This legislation authorizes not-for-profit institutions to receive donated computers from municipalities for use by senior citizens and low income individuals.

# <u>Niagara County Parkland</u> (A.6855-B Ceretto; Chapter 562 of the Laws of 2011)

This bill authorizes Niagara County to alienate, transfer and convey parklands to the Town of Newfane. The Town is required to continue to use the land for park and recreational purposes. The Town of Newfane is also required to continue to provide access to the parklands to all residents of Niagara County and is not allowed to charge higher fees for county residents who are not residents of the Town. Any revenues received from the transfer of parkland pursuant to this act are required to be used for capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities and/or for the acquisition of additional park and recreational facilities. If the parkland described in this act ever ceases to be used for recreational purposes, the title to the land would revert to Niagara County.

# V. OUTLOOK FOR 2012

The Committee recognizes the difficult economic outlook that New York citizens and municipalities will continue to face in the year to come. The State will likely be confronted with many budgetary challenges. The Committee will strive to find ways to achieve savings through consolidations, cooperative agreements and regionalization of certain municipal services, as well as exploring other ways to reduce the cost of government in New York State.

In addition, the Committee will take an active role in examining the immediate need for meaningful mandate relief for our struggling municipalities. The rising costs of public pensions, Medicaid, education, Early Intervention, correctional services, public safety, highway and transportation services, and social services, to name a few, must be addressed and the Committee will try to help lessen the burden placed on the backs of local governments.

The Committee will also continue to advocate for the fair and equitable distribution of local government aid. Local governments need a stable and predictable revenue stream.

The Assembly Standing Committee on Local Governments will address the needs of municipalities by examining home rule legislation in 2012 and strive to see the enactment of home rule bills that provide communities with a remedy to their locally specific situation.

# **APPENDIX A**

# 2011 SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

| Final Disposition                           | Assembly<br><u>Bills</u> | Senate<br><u>Bills</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Bills Reported                              | 76                       | 0                      | 76           |
|   |                          |                        |              |
| To Floor                                    | 9                        | 0                      | 9            |
| To Ways and Means                           | 55                       | 0                      | 55           |
| To Codes                                    | 4                        | 0                      | 4            |
| To Rules                                    | 8                        | 0                      | 8            |
| To Judiciary                                | 0                        | 0                      | 0            |
|   |                          |                        |              |
| Bills Having Enacting<br>Clauses Stricken   | 14                       | 0                      | 14           |
| Bills Having Committee<br>Reference Changed | 7                        | 0                      | 7            |
| Senate Bills Substituted<br>Or Recalled     |                          | 15                     | 15           |
| Bills Never Reported, Held<br>In Committee  | 35                       | 0                      | 35           |
| Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee     | 198                      | 21                     | 219          |
| Total in Committee                          | 323                      | 36                     | 359          |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD               | 10                       |                        | 10           |

# APPENDIX B

# **Chapter Laws of 2011**

| <u>Bill #</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> | <b>Description</b>   | <u>Chapter</u> |
|---------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| A.129         | Montesano      | Authorizes Nassau County to transfer ownership of certain parklands to Conservation Partners, LLC.   | 38             |
| A.373-A       | Hoyt           | Provides for creation and administration of land banks for<br>the conversion of vacant, abandoned or tax-delinquent<br>properties into productive use.                       | 257            |
| A.550         | Jaffee         | Authorizes the Town of Orangetown in Rockland County to<br>permanently discontinue the use of certain town lands as<br>parkland.   | 27             |
| A.899         | McEneny        | Authorizes the Town of Guilderland in Albany County to elect a third town justice.   | 190            |
| A.2402        | Weisenberg     | Authorizes Bay Park Fire District to transfer funds in its capital reserve account to its general or other legally established fund in order to provide property tax relief. | 48             |
| A.2930-A      | Zebrowski      | Provides a residency exemption for the office of village assessor of the Village of Haverstraw in Rockland County.   | 128            |
| A.2948        | Gabryszak      | Authorizes the Erie County Legislature to change the purpose of previously issued bonds.   | 385            |
| A.3403        | Pretlow        | Authorizes the County of Westchester to issue serial bonds<br>to finance certain payments over a period of five years<br>related to the 2010 Early Retirement Incentive.     | 387            |
| A.3672        | Finch          | Provides a residency exemption for the office of village clerk of the Village of Aurora in Cayuga County.  | 129            |
| A.4021        | Englebright    | Authorizes the Village of Port Jefferson to discontinue the use of certain village lands as parkland and to alienate and convey such lands.                                  | 39             |
| A.4074        | Russell        | Legalizes, ratifies, validates and confirms certain actions<br>taken by the Village of Black River in Jefferson County in<br>relation to certain low interest loans.         | 15             |

| A.4215   | Schimminger | Permits the County of Erie to market serial bonds at private sale through June 30, 2012.   | 63  |
|----------|-------------|--|-----|
| A.4297   | Duprey      | Authorizes the Village of Saranac Lake to grant easements<br>over certain parklands for the purpose of operating a<br>waterworks system.   | 64  |
| A.4393-B | Crouch      | Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the abolition of the<br>Town of Sanford Fire District Commissioners and authorizes<br>the town to initiate the dissolution of the fire district.       | 329 |
| A.4764   | Russell     | Validates and legalizes certain bond anticipation notes issued by the Village of Norwood.  | 40  |
| A.4766   | Thiele      | Relates to payments to certain school, fire, fire protection<br>and ambulance districts for lands exempt from real property<br>taxation related to the Peconic Bay community preservation<br>fund. | 330 |
| A.4858   | Galef       | Authorizes the removal of fire commissioners for dereliction of duties.  | 462 |
| A.4986-A | Jordan      | Extends the term of the lease of certain parklands in the Village of Round Lake.   | 324 |
| A.5852   | McKevitt    | Authorizes the Town of North Hempstead in Nassau<br>County to convey to the Carle Place Water District certain<br>parklands.   | 331 |
| A.6019   | Johns       | Authorizes the Town of Webster in Monroe County to discontinue the use of certain lands as parklands.  | 194 |
| A.6306   | Magnarelli  | Enacts the Private Activity Bond Allocation Act of 2011.   | 71  |
| A.6307   | Magnarelli  | Extends certain provisions of law relating to installment<br>loans and obligations evidencing installment loans until<br>September 30, 2014.   | 41  |
| A.6332-A | Canestrari  | Authorizes the Town of East Greenbush to lease certain parkland to the East Greenbush Miracle League, Inc.   | 337 |
| A.6334   | Lavine      | Dissolves the Westbury Community Development agency.   | 280 |
| A.6441   | Roberts     | Extends certain provisions of law relating to statutory installment bonds until September 30, 2014.  | 69  |
| A.6442   | Roberts     | Extends certain provisions of law relating to refunding bonds until September 30, 2014.  | 72  |
|          |             |  |     |

| A.6558   | Duprey      | Authorizes the Town of Malone in Franklin County to<br>extend the Malone fire protection district into the Village of<br>Malone.  | 144 |
|----------|-------------|---|-----|
| A.6724-B | Friend      | Authorizes Schuyler County to convey an easement through<br>parkland located in Seneca Harbor Park to enable access to<br>lakefront development.                          | 563 |
| A.6855-B | Ceretto     | Allows the County of Niagara to transfer and convey certain<br>parcels of parkland located within the Town of Newfane to<br>the Town of Newfane.                          | 562 |
| A.6901   | Graf        | Includes Fair Harbor Fire District among those districts that have elections on the second Tuesday in July.   | 334 |
| A.7061-A | Thiele      | Extends provisions relating to the issuance of land installment purchase obligations until July 31, 2021.   | 200 |
| A.7196   | Gabryszak   | Authorizes ambulance services and/or emergency medical<br>services operated jointly by municipalities to be provided<br>within the boundaries of all such municipalities. | 471 |
| A.7248   | Crouch      | Authorizes the County of Chenango to apply to the federal government to establish, operate and maintain foreign trade zones within such county.                           | 569 |
| A.7303   | Magee       | Updates various laws to ensure volunteer firefighters are<br>duly elected or approved members of their respective<br>companies.   | 373 |
| A.7386   | Morelle     | Authorizes industrial development agencies to finance automobile racing facilities.   | 478 |
| A.7433   | Blankenbush | Authorizes the Towns of Harrisburg, Montague, and<br>Pinckney in Lewis County to elect a single Town Justice to<br>preside over the Town Courts of such towns.            | 145 |
| A.7654   | Lavine      | Authorizes city and village planning boards to grant more<br>than two extensions of conditional approval of final plats.  | 561 |
| A.7738   | Hawley      | Provides for the dissolution of the Village of Medina<br>Housing Authority and Urban Renewal Agency in Orleans<br>County.   | 311 |
| A.7843   | Latimer     | Creates a second acting police justice for the Village of Port<br>Chester in Westchester County.  | 355 |
| A.7933   | Sayward     | Authorizes town justices in the Town of Benson in Hamilton<br>County to reside outside of such town.  | 314 |

| A.8097   | Butler  | Authorizes the Village of Herkimer to finance a litigation settlement by the issuance of serial bonds and/or bond anticipation notes.   | 578 |
|----------|---------|---|-----|
| A.8120-A | Galef   | Authorizes the merger of the courts of the Town of Ossining and Village of Ossining.  | 146 |
| A.8124   | Jaffee  | Authorizes not-for-profit institutions to receive computers<br>donated from municipalities for use by senior citizens or low<br>income individuals.   | 390 |
| A.8215   | Hayes   | Authorizes the Town of Amherst to discontinue the use of certain parkland and to alienate and convey such lands.  | 214 |
| A.8226   | Lupardo | Extends until August 5, 2013 the time period within which<br>the commissioner of the Department of Transportation is<br>authorized to transfer certain lands to the Broome County<br>Industrial Development Agency. | 208 |
| A.8264   | Butler  | Authorizes the Village of Ilion to finance a litigation settlement by the issuance of serial bonds and/or bond anticipation notes.  | 585 |
| A.8337   | Gunther | Authorizes the Town of Thompson in Sullivan County to<br>establish the "Treasure Lake/Davies Dam Improvement<br>District."  | 358 |
| A.8338   | Gunther | Authorizes the Town of Thompson in Sullivan County to<br>establish the "Lake Louise Marie Dam Improvement<br>District."   | 359 |

# APPENDIX C

# Vetoes of 2011

| <u>Bill #</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> | Description   | Veto          |
|---------------|----------------|---|---------------|
|               |                |   | <u>Memo #</u> |
| A.3146        | Calhoun        | Requires additional approval for payments in lieu of taxes<br>for industrial development agency projects located in the<br>Town of Chester. | 55            |