



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 01/02/18 05:30 PM
Department: Social Services Department
Category: Legislation or Funding - State and Federal
Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7514

1 **Resolution to Urge a Repeal of Portions of 16-ADM- 11 that Requires**
2 **Shelter Payments from Individuals with Modest Earned and**
3 **Unearned Income**

4 WHEREAS, Tompkins County stands firmly committed to inclusive access to safe housing for all Tompkins
5 County residents, and

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7 WHEREAS, Tompkins County has a significant shortage of housing and the market rate of housing has risen
8 significantly in recent years, and

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10 WHEREAS, the resulting housing deficiency and rising cost of housing in Tompkins County has resulted in
11 steadily rising numbers of working families that are unable to find, and/or afford housing, and

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13 WHEREAS, Temporary Housing Assistance is administered at the direction of the Office of Temporary and
14 Disability Assistance (OTDA) through the Tompkins County Department of Social Services with the intent of
15 preventing homelessness and providing assistance to homeless persons in Tompkins County, and

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17 WHEREAS, 16-ADM- 11 (Administrative Directive) provides Social Services districts with regulations that
18 the Tompkins County Department of Social Services of Tompkins County is required to abide by, and

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20 WHEREAS, these regulations require that when a person has available income, either earned or unearned,
21 Tompkins County Department of Social Services must incorporate this income into a standard Temporary Housing
22 Assistance budgeting formula in accordance with a previous directive (05 ADM-3) to adjust and effectively reduce the
23 allowable Temporary Housing Assistance for that individual, and

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25 WHEREAS, in Tompkins County this can mean that a homeless person with earned or unearned income who
26 seeks support for Temporary Housing Assistance may have to contribute up to \$70.54 per night for sheltering costs
27 (note that these costs do not apply if the temperature is 32 degrees or below with wind chill), and

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29 WHEREAS, if a person was asked to pay the maximum sheltering contribution, it would be the equivalent cost
30 of renting an apartment for approximately \$2,100.00 per month including utilities, and

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32 WHEREAS, if a person who is homeless and seeks help through the Tompkins County Department of Social
33 Services, and has earned or unearned income, does not make these payments the person can be asked to leave the
34 shelter, and

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36 WHEREAS, repeal of this requirement would allow homeless Tompkins County residents to accumulate
37 sufficient income to better prepare for obtaining and maintaining more permanent housing, now therefore be it

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39 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County
40 Legislature calls on its representatives New York State Assemblywoman Lifton, New York State Senators O'Mara,
41 Seward, and Helming, New York State Assembly Speaker Heastie, New York State Assembly Minority Leader Kolb,
42 New York State Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, New York State Senate Democratic Conference Leader Stewart-
43 Cousins, and New York State Senate Independent Democratic Conference Leader Klein, to vote to repeal the required
44 shelter payments as stated in OTDA 16-ADM- 11,

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RESOLVED, further, That copies of this resolution be sent to New York State Assemblywoman Lifton, New York State Senators O'Mara, Seward, and Helming, Governor Cuomo, New York State Assembly Speaker Heastie, New York State Assembly Minority Leader Kolb, New York State Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, New York State Senate Democratic Conference Leader Stewart-Cousins, and New York State Senate Independent Democratic Conference Leader Klein.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20