



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 01/16/18 05:30 PM

Department: Planning and Sustainability Department
Category: Legislation or Funding - State and Federal
Functional Category: Housing, Legislation/Regulations

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. *DOC ID: 7527*

1 **Amending Section 224 of New York State County Law to Permit**
2 **Counties to Appropriate Funds Towards the Development,**
3 **Maintenance, or Management of Affordable Housing**

4 WHEREAS, Section 224 of the New York State County Law provides the option for a county board of
5 supervisors to appropriate and contract for public benefit services, and specifically to contract with non-profit
6 organizations and other corporations, associations, and agencies within the county for the purposes listed in Section
7 224, and
8

9 WHEREAS, the list of objects and purposes for these optional appropriations and contracts for public benefit
10 services does not include the development, maintenance, or management of affordable housing, and
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12 WHEREAS, an inadequate supply of affordable housing that is well maintained and managed is a long-
13 standing challenge that significantly impacts the health, safety, and well-being of many individuals and families in
14 Tompkins County and throughout the state of New York, and
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16 WHEREAS, this inadequate supply of affordable housing, together with the older housing stock common
17 throughout Tompkins County and the state of New York, compromises the health and safety of community members
18 who may be forced to live in unsafe housing conditions and/or use precious resources that might pay for adequate
19 food, medicine, and clothing in order to secure housing for themselves and their families, and
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21 WHEREAS, counties in the state of New York are permitted to spend Federal and New York State funds
22 provided to them for the purposes of developing, maintaining, or managing affordable housing and to contract with
23 other organizations to carry out these purposes, and
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25 WHEREAS, although counties cannot address affordable housing challenges alone, counties in the state of
26 New York have no mechanism under the current County Law to use any local funds to assist in the development,
27 maintenance, or management of affordable housing and are therefore largely powerless absent the award of Federal or
28 New York State funds for these affordable housing efforts, and
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30 WHEREAS, without the authority to spend local resources on affordable housing, counties in the state of New
31 York are facing a crisis in affordable housing development, as Federal and State funding for this urgent and critical
32 need may be significantly cut in the near future, now therefore be it
33

34 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That
35 the Tompkins County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature to amend Section 224 of the New York State
36 County Law as follows:
37

38 (29) Development, maintenance, or management of affordable housing.
39

40 **SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-37**