

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Employee Relations**
3 **Resolution #03**

4
5 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASKFORCE**
6 **TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE**
7 **HEALTH OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMMON RETIREMENT SYSTEM**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, New York State Common Retirement System has been in existence
10 since 1921, providing retirement services to almost 1 million current state and local
11 employees and retirees under the New York State and Local Employee Retirement
12 System and the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, the Common Retirement System has exhibited great financial
15 strength through its history, ensuring the security of the pensions benefits of existing
16 active members and retirees; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, Retirement Systems throughout our nation, in both the public and
19 private sectors are under increasing financial pressure in meeting their obligations to
20 their members; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the costs of contributions to the Common Retirement Funds by
23 public employers have put extreme pressure on the budgets of both the state and local
24 governments participating in the system; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, over 500 bills were introduced during the 2006 legislative session to
27 amend, enhance or reform the current benefits available under the common retirement
28 systems; and
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30 **WHEREAS**, the future health of the common retirement fund and the
31 affordability of the benefits available to members of the common retirement system is of
32 great concern to state and local governments, current members and retirees of the
33 common retirement system; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, counties and all local governments are concerned about their future
36 ability to provide fair and equitable retirement benefits for their employees without
37 further overburdening local taxpayers:
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39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
40 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the New York State Comptroller as sole trustee of the
41 Common Retirement Fund, the Governor and the Legislature to jointly appoint a task
42 force to study, recommend policies and legislative initiatives to insure the future health,
43 equitability and affordability of pension benefits available to state and local public
44 employees under the New York State Common Retirement System; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that counties and representatives of other local
2 governments be included in the membership of any task force so designated, along with
3 employee representatives and representatives of public employment retirees; and
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5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and the
6 Legislature to refrain from the enactment of any new enhancements to the benefits
7 available under the Common Retirement Fund until such time as the findings of the task
8 force are issued and given due consideration; and
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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this
11 Resolution to the Governor, the New York State Legislature, the New York State
12 Comptroller and all others deemed necessary and proper.