

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation & Finance**  
3 **Resolution #02**

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5 **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF LOCAL**  
6 **GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PRACTICES**  
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8 **WHEREAS**, A modernization of local government procurement practices offers  
9 a significant opportunity to reduce costs and improve efficiency for the over 3,000 local  
10 governments in New York State who expend over \$120 million annually; and  
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12 **WHEREAS**, General Municipal Law Section 103, the foundation for local  
13 competitive bidding requirements in New York, needs an update to reflect modern  
14 purchasing criteria and nationally accepted procedures designed to improve the value to  
15 taxpayers, while preserving the quality of the goods and services obtained; and  
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17 **WHEREAS**, current state law exempts smaller purchases and lower value public  
18 works contracts from competitive bidding requirements, but the current thresholds have  
19 remained unchanged since 1991 and have not kept pace with inflation; and  
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21 **WHEREAS**, the use of “best value” purchasing would give localities the  
22 flexibility to consider value, as well as lowest responsible bidder as a way to produce  
23 savings and increased quality from a procurement; and  
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25 **WHEREAS**, all states with the exception of New York, authorize local  
26 governments to “piggy back” onto public contracts in other areas of the country as a way  
27 to maximize value and costs savings; and  
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29 **WHEREAS**, established national government purchasing cooperatives and  
30 products and services through the Federal General Services Administration (GSA)  
31 contracts are proven methods, available to state agencies, that would offer similar  
32 benefits to localities:  
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34 **NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association  
35 of Counties (NYSAC) calls for the modernization of local government procurement  
36 practices as a way to promote efficiency and cost savings at the local level; and  
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38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as part of this modernization, NYSAC supports  
39 the updating of current competitive bidding thresholds, the addition of “best value”  
40 purchasing criteria, and the ability for localities to “piggy back” onto publicly bid  
41 contracts from other states, including the authority for localities to join other established  
42 national purchasing cooperatives, including the use of the Federal GSA contracts; and  
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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of Counties  
45 shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor, the New York State Legislature and  
46 all others deemed necessary and proper.