

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Rural Affairs**  
3 **Resolution #03**

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5 **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING COUNTY WIDE**  
6 **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FINANCING OF CIVIC FACILITIES**  
7 **PROJECTS ON A PERMANENT AND EXPANDED BASIS AS PART OF**  
8 **OVERALL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY REFORM**

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10 **WHEREAS**, Industrial Development Agency reform bills establishing greater  
11 accountability and new reporting requirements for local agencies have been introduced in  
12 both houses of the New York State legislature; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, Industrial Development Agency reform will be debated in both  
15 houses of the legislature during the next legislative session; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the New York State legislature enacted amendments to the general  
18 municipal law in 1997, authorizing county wide Industrial Development Agencies to  
19 utilize their tax exempt bonding authority to finance construction of civic facilities  
20 including not-for-profit hospitals, continuing care residential facilities for the elderly, and  
21 college dormitories; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, over \$2 billion dollars in eligible civic facilities have been financed  
24 by county wide Industrial Development Agencies since this authority has been granted,  
25 and

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27 **WHEREAS**, this financing mechanism has provided not-for-profit hospitals, and  
28 residential care facilities with significant savings on costs for construction on new  
29 medical facilities, since financing through local Industrial Developments Agencies is  
30 considerably less expensive than that available through other sources, assisting their  
31 efforts to control the costs of health care; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, colleges and universities, including community colleges, have been  
34 able to finance construction of dormitory facilities at reduced costs, with resulting  
35 savings to taxpayers; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, current authority for financing of such facilities is capped at no  
38 more than \$20 million per project; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, this limitation on financing levels creates impediments to not-for  
41 profit hospitals, continuing care facilities for the elderly and college dormitories ability to  
42 finance large projects through county-wide industrial development agencies at reduced  
43 costs; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, the current authority for civic facilities financing by county wide  
46 industrial development agencies expires on July 1, 2007:

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**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) supports the enactment of Industrial Development Agency reform legislation that strengthens public accountability and secures the confidentiality of personal and proprietary information while maintaining local flexibility, oversight and control of Industrial Development Agencies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC supports establishing permanent authority of county-wide Industrial Development Agencies to finance civic facility projects with an increase in the cap to \$50 million per project as part of overall Industrial Development Agency reform; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, the New York State legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.