

1 **2020 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
3 **Resolution # 4**

4 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Make Investments**
5 **in Veteran Services**

6 **WHEREAS**, counties provide important services for the 900,000 veterans living in our
7 State; and

8 **WHEREAS**, counties take pride in this service and believe we have a duty to provide
9 support to those who sacrificed so much for our State and country; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs and County Veteran
11 Service Agencies have been working in conjunction with counties for decades to support
12 and provide needed services to our veterans; and

13 **WHEREAS**, citing state budget concerns, the New York State Division of Veteran
14 Affairs has historically underfunded some of its local government support; and

15 **WHEREAS**, counties are interested in developing unique incentives to continue to
16 recruit and retain our state's veteran population.

17 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
18 Counties calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to increase
19 funding to support local veteran service; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties calls
21 upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to take the following actions to
22 make investments in veteran services:

- 23 • Include additional funding for veterans' affairs so that counties can provide
24 additional resources and services to our veterans; and
- 25 • Require the NYS Division of Veteran Affairs to share the DD-214 form with
26 county veteran service agencies; and
- 27 • Expand the definition of "veteran" to recognize the service of reserve or national
28 guard service members who have completed 20 years of service; and
- 29 • Authorize local governments to allow veterans to receive exemptions from paying
30 hotel/motel occupancy taxes; and
- 31 • Expand the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation veterans' discounts
32 on hunting and fishing licenses; and
- 33 • Expand the discount on state park entrance fees; and
- 34 • Create a veteran green energy jobs program to train and link veterans with
35 sustainable, environmentally friendly jobs to meet the goals set forth in the
36 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act; and

- 1 • Mandate all public institutions of higher education to participate in the American
2 Council on Education (ACE) so our veterans can gain college credit for military
3 experience; and
- 4 • Expand veteran court availability throughout New York State; and
- 5 • Provide counties with the flexibility to enact at local option, a local sales tax
6 exemption on vehicles for veterans who are partially disabled; and
- 7 • Provide local sales tax exemptions for vehicle purchases and adaptations and
8 allow counties to enact similar local laws to provide this benefit as well; and
- 9 • Provide counties who create veteran trust funds at local option a one-time seed
10 fund equal to \$1/ per veteran as of the last U.S. Census. This targeted investment
11 will help aid the continued operational success of the Trust Fund.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
13 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Association of Counties shall
15 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State
16 Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.