

RESOLUTION NO. 51

ESTABLISHING A POLICY REGARDING ADMISSIONS TO THE ALBANY COUNTY AND ANN LEE NURSING HOMES

Introduced: 2/12/07

By Mr. Commisso, Mss. Connolly, Wiley, Messrs. McCoy, Morse, Domalewicz, Aidala, Beston, Clay, Ethier, Houghtaling, Infante, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, Riddick, Shafer, Ms. Willingham, Messrs. Gordon, Monjeau, Nichols, Ward, Joyce, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Aylward, Tunny, Mss. Barlette and Prentiss:

WHEREAS, The County Executive has unilaterally instituted a policy of refusing new admissions to the Albany County and Ann Lee Nursing Homes to reduce the census in anticipation of eventually building a smaller skilled nursing facility, and

WHEREAS, This action has contributed to uncertainty over the short-term future of the nursing home and added to the anxieties of nursing home residents and their families, employees and County residents unable to locate available skilled nursing home beds in the community, and

WHEREAS, The State's approval in December 2005 of the County's Certificate of Need to construct a new 450-bed replacement for the two nursing homes at Heritage Park was reversed by a recommendation of the State Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century in December 2006 that Albany County's replacement facility should not exceed 250 beds, and

WHEREAS, This action requires the County to identify a new site for the smaller facility, reach a consensus on the size of the new facility and submit plans for approval by the State Health Department, which could take another 3-5 years, and

WHEREAS, The certified capacity at the two County-owned nursing homes is 477 beds, with 300 of those beds at the Albany County facility and 177 at Ann Lee, although the most current combined resident census is 370, and

WHEREAS, It is the belief of this Honorable Body that by reducing the number of available skilled nursing beds in the community, the County Executive's policy freezing admissions at this time has had the unintended consequence of forcing families to place their loved ones in nursing homes outside the County and even outside the State, and may result in higher costs to the County for hospitalized Medicaid-eligible patients whose discharge is delayed because of difficulties locating a nursing home willing to accept them, and

WHEREAS, While it is the laudable goal of both the Executive and the Legislature to provide more options for alternative, community-based long-term care services enabling seniors to remain independent for as long as possible, these services are not now of sufficient quantity, nor will they be in the foreseeable future, to present a viable option, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body hereby establishes a policy to accept admissions to the Albany County and Ann Lee Nursing Homes up to a maximum resident census of 370, until such time as the County begins the transition to consolidate the resident population of the Ann Lee Home into the Albany County Nursing Home, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in the interest of moving forward with plans to build a replacement skilled nursing facility, the Legislature states its intention to pursue the construction of a 250-bed facility, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Mr. Collins proposed the following amendment:

Amend the 7th WHEREAS Clause to read as follows:

WHEREAS future of long term care in this State is in flux by reason of new federal and state initiatives which make it impossible to accurately determine the correct size, based upon both need and cost of a new Albany County Skilled Nursing Facility at this time without additional study, a review of the Governor's recently proposed budget, other state and federal initiatives and further advise from industry experts; and

Amend the 1st RESOLVED Clause to read:

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body hereby establishes a policy to accept admissions to the Albany County and Ann Lee Nursing Homes up to a maximum resident census of 370, until such time as the earliest of the following occur: (a) The County Executive presents the results of a detailed study by an independent expert as to a plan of transition from the current two facilities to a new Albany County Nursing Home and the approval of such Plan by this Honorable Body; (b) the County begins the transition to consolidate the resident population of the Ann Lee Home into the Albany County Nursing Home, or (c) this Honorable Body determines the correct size of the new Albany County Nursing Home; and, be it further

Amend the Second RESOLVED Clause to read:

RESOLVED, That in the interest of moving forward with plans to build a replacement skilled nursing facility, this Honorable Body states its intention to pursue the construction of a appropriately sized facility of from 150 to 250-bed facility and determines that all Requests for Proposals and/or Qualifications for such new facility shall call for proposals of facilities of from 150 to 250 beds so as to encourage the broadest possible participation in the process and the greatest possible number of options for this Honorable Body in determining which proposal to accept, and, be it further”

On roll call vote on the amendment the following voted in favor: Ms. Benedict, Messrs. Carman, Clouse, Collins and Ms. McKnight – 5.

Those opposed: Messrs. Aidala, Aylward, Ms. Barlette, Messrs. Beston, Clay, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cunningham, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Gordon, Hoblock, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Ms. Prentiss, Messrs. Shafer, Steck, Tunny, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham – 30.

Amendment was defeated.

On roll call vote on the original resolution the following voted in favor: Messrs. Aidala, Aylward, Mss. Barlette, Benedict, Messrs. Beston, Carman, Clay, Clouse, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Gordon, Hoblock, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Ms. Prentiss, Messrs. Shafer, Tunny, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham – 32.

Those opposed: Messrs. Cunningham, Dawson and Steck – 3.

Resolution was adopted. 2/12/07