

July 6, 2009

Finance Committee: 6-22-2009

RESOLUTION NO. 236-2009

**OPPOSING GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM BILL NO. 35 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A00801
REGARDING RENEWAL OR RECERTIFICATION OF PISTOL PERMIT LICENSES**

By Mr. Peck, Chair, Finance Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Burns, District 1; Mr. Forsythe, District 2
Mr. Lightfoot, District 3; and Mr. Morrill, District 6

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly has introduced Senate Bill A0081, which requires any license to carry or possess a pistol or revolver to expire not more than five (5) years after the date of issuance, and

WHEREAS, Governor Paterson has introduced similar legislation under Program Bill No. 35, which requires the holders of pistol permits to renew or recertify their permits by December 1, 2014 and every five (5) years thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal allows the County to collect a fee of no more than twenty dollars (\$20) which does not cover administrative costs and creates an added burden on gun owners and taxpayers who are already being taxed at one of the highest rates in the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal appears to be nothing more than an unfunded mandate, which does not improve the safety and well being of the residents of St. Lawrence County but instead calls for the expenditure of taxpayer monies to administer its requirements, and

WHEREAS, to meet this unfunded mandate, the County Clerk's Office would be required to send notices to approximately 16,700 current holders of pistol permits issued in St. Lawrence County, process renewals, and establish a procedure to notify those permit holders who fail to apply for renewal or recertification, and

WHEREAS, criminal background checks would be required for each permit holder and would have to be incorporated into the day-to-day operation of the Sheriff and Emergency Services Departments which are already at the limits of their manpower, and

WHEREAS, through the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), fingerprint records of those persons arrested for a fingerprintable offense are cross checked against those who are licensed pistol permit holders, and resulting matches are then reported to the issuer of the pistol permit for further review and action,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators strongly opposes the Governor's Program Bill No. 35 and Assembly Bill A00801, which requires the renewal or recertification of licenses pursuant to the proposed addition to or amendment of subdivision 10-a to Section 400.00 of the Penal Law of the State of New York in the form of an unfunded mandate, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to Governor David Paterson; Senators Joseph Griffo, Elizabeth O'C Little, and Darrel Aubertine; and Assembly members Dierdre Scozzafava and Addie Jennie Russell.