LOCAL LAW NO. _____- 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 608 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER AND SECTION 6.13 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE TRANSFERS OF UNENCUMBERED APPROPRIATIONS, UPDATING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS

BE IT ENACTED by the Onondaga County Legislature, Onondaga County, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the "Budget Accountability in County Transfers," and referred to as "Budget ACT."

Section 2. Purpose.

To amend the Onondaga County Charter to increase the amount in which the County Executive can make transfers of unencumbered appropriations within or among administrative units during a fiscal year without prior approval of the County Legislature from seven thousand five hundred dollars ($7,500) annually to ten thousand dollars ($10,000) annually. Further, to increase the reporting threshold from one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500) to three thousand dollars ($3,000). Finally, to provide exemptions and a written reporting requirement for such exempt category transfers over ten thousand dollars ($10,000).

Section 3. Charter Amendments.

(a) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended in Section 608 to strike seven thousand five hundred dollars and substitute ten thousand dollars.

(b) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended in Section 608 to add the following third paragraph:

Section 608. APPROPRIATIONS: REDUCTION AND TRANSFER AFTER BUDGET ADOPTION.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, transfers for purposes including employee salaries and benefits, interdepartmental transfers, state mandated services, and litigation or settlement obligations shall not require the prior approval of the county legislature, regardless of the amount of such transfer. Any such transfer resulting in a cumulative increase exceeding three thousand dollars in any one line item in the budget as adopted during the fiscal year shall be recorded by the County Executive and reported to the County Legislature. Any encumbrances which when added to expenses exceed the budget appropriation shall require a written report to the county legislature explaining the reason such line item exceeded the threshold. The County Legislature may, in its discretion and on a case-by-case basis, request that the designated department representative present on any such transfer following submission of a report under this paragraph.

Section 4. Administrative Code Amendments.

(a) The Onondaga County Administrative Code, being Local Law 1 of 1975, as amended, hereby is further amended in Section 6.13(a) to strike seven thousand five hundred dollars and substitute ten thousand dollars.

(b) The Onondaga County Administrative Code, being Local Law 1 of 1975, as amended, hereby is further amended in Section 6.13(a) to strike one thousand five hundred dollars and substitute three thousand dollars.

(c) The Onondaga County Administrative Code, being Local Law 1 of 1975, as amended, hereby is further amended in Section 6.13 to add a subsection (d) as follows:

Section 6.13. TRANSFERS WITHIN OR AMONG UNITS.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, transfers for purposes including employee salaries and benefits, interdepartmental transfers, state mandated services, and litigation or settlement obligations shall not require the prior approval of the county legislature, regardless of the amount of such transfer. Any such transfer resulting in a cumulative increase exceeding three thousand dollars in any one line item in the budget as adopted during the fiscal year shall be recorded by the County Executive and reported to the County Legislature. Any encumbrances which when added to expenses exceed the budget appropriation shall require a written report to the county legislature explaining the reason such line item exceeded the threshold. The County Legislature may, in its discretion and on a case-by-case basis, request that the designated department representative present on any such transfer following submission of a report under this paragraph.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

ADOPTED: 10/6/2026

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the legislation duly adopted by the County Legislature of Onondaga County on the 6th day of October 2026.

Clerk, County Legislature