

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #3**

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5 **Resolution Urging the State Health Department to Reimburse Local Health**
6 **Departments (LHDs) for Costs Incurred During State-Led Communicable**
7 **Disease Investigations and to Establish a Mechanism for Local Authorities**
8 **to Request State Support When Necessary**

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10 **WHEREAS**, communicable disease control is a critical public health function essential
11 for protecting the health and safety of all residents in New York State; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, recent health emergencies have demonstrated the need for coordinated
14 and comprehensive responses involving both local health departments and the New
15 York State Department of Health (NYSDOH); and

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17 **WHEREAS**, shared investigation and response by local health (LHDs) and NYSDOH
18 has been has proven effective in combatting disease outbreaks; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, NYSDOH has codified in regulation the authority of the State
21 Commissioner of Health to elect to lead investigation and response activities but does
22 not provide a regulatory bi-directional pathway for local health authorities to request
23 that the State Commissioner of Health lead such investigation and response activities;
24 and

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26 **WHEREAS**, while the Commissioner of Health may choose to lead disease
27 investigations and direct the use of local resources when necessary, the current
28 regulations do not adequately address the fiscal, legal, and administrative impacts on
29 local health authorities, particularly when they are required to supply personnel,
30 equipment, and information for state-led outbreak investigations.

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32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that (LHDs) and the NYSDOH share joint
33 responsibility for the investigation and control of communicable diseases within New
34 York State; and

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36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NYSDOH establish a process that allows
37 local health departments to formally request that the State Commissioner of Health
38 assume leadership of a communicable disease investigation in situations where there are
39 jurisdictional challenges, insufficient regulatory or oversight authority, a lack of
40 necessary expertise, or a shortage of resources required to effectively conduct or
41 continue the investigation; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State Health Commissioner shall reimburse the

1 local health authority for 100 percent of its costs incurred for such investigation and
2 response activities; and

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

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7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
8 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
9 necessary and proper.