



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

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Cilmi Wants Tighter Hiring Procedures in Suffolk County

10th District Legislator Tom Cilmi says the law requiring Legislative waivers when hiring a non-Suffolk resident need to be tightened. He has filed [IR 1208-2013, "a Charter Law to clarify employee residency requirements"](#)

Under current law, in order to hire someone from outside Suffolk County, the County Executive is required to file a waiver request with the County Legislature. The law, however, doesn't require that the request be approved prior to hiring. Cilmi says the intent of the law is clear, but the language needs to be tightened up.

"Clearly the intent is to have the Legislature approve waiver requests before someone is hired from outside Suffolk County, but that's not quite what the law says. Currently, an employee may be hired and spend months on the payroll before the Legislature even sees the request, much less approves it. So what happens is, someone gets hired, the waiver request comes over after the person already left a previous job and is settling in to the new County job. It's just not fair at that point to decline the request, so we're forced, out of decency to the employee, to approve the waiver."

Cilmi's bill would require that the Legislature approve the waiver request before anyone from outside the County is hired. He says not only does this more accurately reflect the intent of the original law, but it forces the County to look within Suffolk's borders before hiring a non-resident and Cilmi says with current levels of unemployment and under-employment, he's willing to bet the County can find qualified Suffolk County residents for just about any job.

The bill is scheduled for a vote at the upcoming meeting of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee.