



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

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Cilmi Bill Tightens Up Employee Residency Hiring Procedure

Requires Waiver Prior to Hiring

Calling it a "necessary reform" Legislator Tom Cilmi announced the passage of legislation he sponsored which requires that the Legislature approve a waiver of the County's residency requirement prior to hiring.

Cilmi filed the bill after a waiver request was presented to the Legislature three months subsequent to the hiring of a new employee from California. At that point, he said, the Legislature had virtually no choice in the matter. "We weren't about to tell this person who left her home and her job in California three months ago that, by no fault of her own, she's fired," said Cilmi.

Presently a waiver request must be made to the Legislature but there is no requirement to make the request, or even (technically) have it passed prior to hiring. Cilmi's bill amends the law to require passage of the request before the executive branch can hire someone who doesn't currently live in Suffolk County. That, Cilmi said, more closely comports with the spirit of the law.

"We have thousands of unemployed and underemployed residents living right here in Suffolk County," Cilmi said. "I don't believe there is any reason to look elsewhere for qualified employees. This bill will ensure we look in Suffolk first."

The bill passed unanimously at the June 4, 2013 meeting of the Legislature and is expected to be signed by the County Executive.