


May 5, 2025

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair  
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair  
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader  
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: Kenneth W. Jenkins  
County Executive 

RE: Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: **HOME RULE – A7286  
– Allowing Westchester County to Require Bidders for Public Works,  
Construction or Purchase Contracts to Hire and Retain Persons  
Residing in Certain Targeted Communities.**

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This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators May 5, 2025 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is legislation as referenced above.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for May 5, 2025 "blue sheet" calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

**HOME RULE REQUEST RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_-2025**

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators approves the making of a Home Rule Request in the following format:

*To the Legislature:*

Pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the County of Westchester requests the enactment of Assembly Bill No. 7286 entitled "AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to allowing Westchester county to require bidders for public works, construction or purchase contracts to hire and retain persons residing in certain targeted communities"

A necessity exists for the enactment of this legislation because the local government does not have the power to enact such legislation by local law.

Dated: 2025  
White Plains, New York

Committee on Legislation

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7286

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to allowing Westchester county to require bidders for public works, construction or purchase contracts to hire and retain persons residing in certain targeted communities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 103-h to read as follows:  
3 § 103-h. Contracts for public works in Westchester county; targeted  
4 communities. 1. For the purposes of this section, a "targeted community"  
5 shall mean any city, town, or village or census tract within a municipi-  
6 pality, within a county where the combined average of the unemployment  
7 rate and the poverty rate of such community is greater than the combined  
8 countywide average of unemployment and poverty rate by ten percent.  
9 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law, the county of Westchester may  
10 require the lowest responsible bidder for all public works, construction  
11 or purchase contracts to hire and retain persons residing in certain  
12 targeted communities having the highest rates of unemployment within  
13 such county.  
14 3. The county may require that:  
15 a. at least ten percent of the labor costs of construction contracts  
16 awarded by the county be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted  
17 communities within that county;  
18 b. at least twenty percent of the labor costs of construction  
19 contracts be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted communities,  
20 if the combined average unemployment and poverty rate for a targeted  
21 community is greater than twenty percent of the combined countywide  
22 average of unemployment rate and the poverty rate; and

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 c. at least thirty percent of the labor costs of construction  
2 contracts cost be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted commu-  
3 nities if the combined average community unemployment and poverty rate  
4 is greater than thirty percent of the combined countywide average of  
5 unemployment rate and the poverty rate.

6 4. The combined average unemployment rate and poverty rate shall be  
7 computed annually based on statistics published by the New York state  
8 bureau of labor statistics or similar government agencies for the period  
9 ending December thirty-first of the year preceding the year in which the  
10 contract is awarded. The county, in its sole discretion, may use the  
11 most recent United States census data in determining the unemployment  
12 rate and poverty rate of a targeted community or combined countywide  
13 unemployment rate and poverty rate instead of data published by the New  
14 York state bureau of labor statistics. The combined average shall be the  
15 sum of the preceding year end unemployment rate plus the preceding year  
16 end poverty rate divided by two.

17 5. The combined average unemployment rate and poverty rate shall be  
18 established annually by resolution or local law of the county. The  
19 county may require bidders to hire and retain persons who were previous-  
20 ly incarcerated and who are participating in a re-entry program in such  
21 county.

22 6. The county may require the lowest responsible bidder to establish  
23 apprenticeship and training programs for workers residing within the  
24 targeted communities in certain construction trades specified in a  
25 resolution or local law passed by such county.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
27 have become a law.



**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**  
**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION**  
**submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

**BILL NUMBER:** A7286

**SPONSOR:** Pretlow

**TITLE OF BILL:**

An act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to allowing Westchester county to require bidders for public works, construction or purchase contracts to hire and retain persons residing in certain targeted communities

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:**

This legislation will allow municipalities in Westchester County-with disproportionately high rates of unemployment to obtain construction' jobs.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:**

An amendment to General Municipal Law section 103(1): A County may require the lowest responsible bidder for all contracts for public works, construct and purchase contracts to hire and retain persons residing in certain targeted communities having the highest rates of unemployment within such county.

A targeted community is any city, town, village or census tract within a

municipality within a county where the combined average of the unemployment rate and the poverty rate of such community is greater than the combined countywide average of unemployment and poverty rate by ten percent. A county may require that at least ten percent of the labor costs of construction contracts awarded by the county to the lowest responsible bidder be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted communities within that county.

If the combined average unemployment and poverty rate for a targeted community is greater than twenty percent of the combined countywide average of unemployment rate and the poverty rate, then a county may require that at least twenty percent of the labor costs of construction contracts awarded must be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted communities.

If the combined average community unemployment and poverty rate is greater than thirty percent of the combined countywide average of unemployment rate and the poverty rate, then a county may require that at least thirty percent of the labor costs of the contract cost must be spent to hire persons residing in the targeted communities. The combined average unemployment rate and poverty rate shall be computed annually based on statistics published by the New York State Bureau of Labor Statistics or similar government agencies for the period ending December 31-of the year preceding the year in which the contract is awarded. The combined average unemployment rate and poverty rate shall be established annually by resolution or local law of the county.



The combined average shall be the sum of the preceding year end unemployment rate plus the preceding year end poverty rate divided by two.

A county may require the lowest responsible bidder to establish apprenticeship and training programs for workers residing within the targeted communities in certain construction trades specified in a resolution or local law of such county.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

This bill will allow the county of Westchester to provide employment in communities that are faced with disproportionately high unemployment and poverty. It's only right to provide opportunities for the poor and unemployed. It's only right to uplift the people in the communities whom are products of their environment. Investing in them will allow the economic climate in that community to rise. This in turn will benefit everyone.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None to the State.

#### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

2023-2024 A4776 Local Governments

2021-2022 A1797 Local Governments

2019-2020 A3268- local governments

04/19/18 A3887-B print number 3887b

01/09/13 referred to local governments

01/08/14 referred to local governments

01/20/15 A2793 referred to local governments

01/06/16 A2793 referred to local governments

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.

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