

**Impacts of Legislative Resolutions**  
*Prepared by the Office of the County Executive*

**Resolution 237-062023**

This resolution seeks for the county to support 2023 Assembly Bill 160/Senate Bill 154, which is a Republican authored proposal relating to requiring allowance for health care providers to refer individuals to aging and disability resource centers for options counseling.

*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau: This bill requires the Department of Health Services to allow a health care provider to send communications to a patient referring the patient to an aging and disability resource center or to the website of an ADRC or DHS for information regarding long-term care options counseling. The bill also requires DHS to make a long-term care options counseling referral letter available on its website for use by health care providers. ADRCs provide information on various programs, counsel on available options, and assist individuals in applying for certain programs and benefits, including participation in the Family Care program, which provides community-based, long-term care services for frail elders and adults with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities. Options counseling is a decision support service intended to empower older adults, adults with disabilities, and their families and caregivers to make informed decisions about current or future long-term care choices.*

*According to the authors, the bill "would offer greater transparency to both the patients receiving long-term care and the providers offering the care. These ADRC resources will continue to empower residential healthcare providers, patients, and their families with the accurate information they need to decide the best course of action for care for themselves."*

County staff do not have a recommendation on the resolution.

**Resolution 238-062023**

This resolution seeks to turnback some of the statutes and administrative rules (PSC 128) relating to the county's role in siting renewable energy. Many of the county's zoning ordinances are preempted by previous legislation related to wind and solar "farms." There is a solar farm pending on the south side of the county.

To our knowledge, there is not legislative pending on this issue and changes to the statutes are unlikely to pass the legislature. County staff do not have a recommendation on the resolution.

**Resolution 239-062023**

Under current reimbursements, the state public defenders are struggling to find private bar attorneys to take public defender cases. Generally, when an individual qualifies for a public defender, the case is taken by an employee of the public defender's office or a private attorney at a rate determined by the legislature in statute. Increasingly, courts are appointing attorneys and this court appointed attorneys are funded by the county. Private bar attorneys are compensated at \$70 per hour with \$25 per hour for travel. Court appointed attorneys are paid a higher rate.

The Joint Committee on Finance has approved the private bar attorney compensation to increase to \$100 per hour with \$50 per hour for travel. This resolution is largely solved in the legislature's budget. County staff recommends passage of the resolution.