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[Legislature on Albany County nursing home: Yes, we still want it](#)

March 13, 2012 at 1:58 pm by [Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, Staff Writer](#)



Higgins: One of three Democratic "no"s.

[As reported](#) in this morning's TU, the Albany County Legislature voted overwhelmingly last night to back the construction of a new \$71 million — despite the state's warning that the county's own projects say the facility could lose as much as \$26 million annually.

I won't rehash the whole debate here, but I will note that three Democrats — Chris Higgins, Dennis Feeney and Charles Dawson — joined the 10-member Republican minority in opposing the measure.

Ultimately, it passed 24-13 anyway, with legislators Bob Beston and Joseph O'Brien, both Democrats, absent.

Here's a link to [the whole roll call](#).

Only Higgins publicly explained his vote, saying he believed the resolution was more than just an expression of support for the nursing home and amounted to setting the county on a course to build the \$71 million facility while the county executive's office is still evaluating its options.

It's now the state Department of Health's serve. That agency is expected to take up the county's request for a certificate of need for the 200-bed facility on April 5.

Update: By the way, if folks are curious where this disputed \$26 million number comes from, it's comes from the county's own certificate of need application to the Department of Health, which was endorsed by both the county executive's office and the County Legislature.

You can read the whole thing [right here](#).