§ 2676-a. Statement of legislative findings and purpose. The legislature hereby finds and declares as follows:

1. The economic well-being of the county and the general welfare of its people require adequate, and accessible performing arts centers, athletic fields, educational facilities, and residential facilities.

2. The preservation and safeguarding of facilities at risk of being underutilized and becoming blighted is a matter of vital importance not only to the residents of the capital district but to all the state's residents and is, therefore, a matter of state concern.

3. In order to ensure a healthy economy for such area and to promote the general welfare of its residents, it is necessary to maintain and improve the college of Saint Rose facilities and services in the county of Albany in such a manner as to stimulate and promote a healthy economy.

4. The general health and welfare of the state's residents requires coordinated operation of the college of Saint Rose facilities and services in the county of Albany by a public benefit authority.

5. The purposes of such authority shall be: (a) to promote accessible, efficient and economically productive use of the facilities; (b) to acquire, construct, reconstruct, continue, develop, equip, expand, improve, maintain, finance, and operate the college of Saint Rose facilities and services within the county of Albany; (c) to stimulate and promote economic development; and (d) to make contracts and leases and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for its corporate purposes.

6. Such purposes are in all respects public purposes for the benefit of the people of the state of New York and for which public funds may be expended and both the county and the authority in carrying out their respective powers and duties under this title shall be deemed to be acting in a governmental capacity. The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, development, expansion, improvement, equipping,

operation and maintenance of any project financed or undertaken by the authority or the county shall be deemed to be the performance of an essential governmental function by the authority or the county acting in its governmental capacity, whether such project shall be owned or operated by the authority or by any person or public corporation.

7. It is hereby found and declared that it has been and remains the policy of the state of New York to promote equal opportunity in employment for all persons, without discrimination on account of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status, to promote equality of economic opportunity for minority group members and women, and minority and women-owned business enterprises.