

RESOLUTION 2011-388

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT,
COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
OPPOSING SENATE BILL S-1351**

WHEREAS, there is now pending in the New Jersey State Legislature Senate Bill S-1351 which would revise the law concerning meetings of public bodies to provide greater public access to meetings and to information about meetings; and,

WHEREAS, S-1351 would provide that a gathering of the members of the public body through electronic mail, instant messaging or similar technology would constitute a meeting; and,

WHEREAS, S-1351 would require that any notice of a meeting be increased to three business days from forty-eight hours and include a specific starting time for the public portion along with the meeting agendas;

WHEREAS, S-1351 would further require that the meeting agendas list each individual item to be discussed and acted upon including the names of the parties and any dollar value to be discussed and would further prohibit items not listed on the agenda from being discussed unless it was an emergency; and,

WHEREAS, S-1351 would further change the provisions of the ability of the governing body to go into closed session and would eliminate pending or anticipated litigation as a reason to conduct a closed session; and,

WHEREAS, S-1351 would further require the annual meeting schedule be posted on the municipality's website and published in two newspapers and that the website contain the meetings, agendas, minutes, resolutions and ordinances for five years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat believes in transparent government and it is clear that S-1351 would hamper the municipality's ability to conduct business in a timely fashion and cause additional expense to the taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, hereby opposes the passage of S-1351 for the aforesaid reasons; and,

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forward certified copies of this resolution to the following:

- A. Governor Chris Christie
- B. New Jersey State Legislature
- C. 9th, 10th and 30th Legislative Districts
- D. Ocean County Municipalities

CERTIFICATION

I, Sharon L. Auer, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on the 1st day of August, 2011.

Sharon L. Auer
Acting Municipal Clerk