

RESOLUTION 2012-292

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING SENATE BILL S-1914

WHEREAS, S-1914, would subject certain ‘user fees for traditional municipal services’ to be included within the 2% cap; and

WHEREAS, the definition of “traditional municipal services” in S-1914 is open-ended, leaving municipalities and State regulators unsure on its application and, therefore, unable to properly plan for future years; and

WHEREAS, user fees for traditional county and school services would not be subject to any of the provisions of S-1914, although they have a greater impact on the local property tax bill; and

WHEREAS, it is at times more appropriate to fund some services by user fees, especially those services for which a recipient and a cost can be clearly and accurately calculated; and

WHEREAS, if municipalities are prohibited from charging user fees, they may be forced to discontinue the service, forcing residents to obtain the service from a private provider, often times at a higher cost than the user fee; and

WHEREAS, as municipalities struggle to meet the 2% levy cap, without the full effects of the management reforms and the continued diversion of energy receipt taxes, officials are forced to re-examine their budget and priorities; and

WHEREAS, in order to deliver the services that their residents expect and want local officials have been making structural changes to their budget, including how programs are funded; and

WHEREAS, municipalities must retain the financial flexibility to address their own unique fiscal issues and meet the demands and expectations of their residents:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey strongly urges the legislature to oppose S-1914; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the sponsor of S-191, Senator Sweeney, assembly Speaker Oliver, Senator Christopher J. Connors, Assemblywoman Diane C. Gove, Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Office of the Governor.

CERTIFICATION

I, Sharon L. Auer, Acting Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at their regular meeting held on the 21st day of May 2012, at the Municipal Complex, 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat New Jersey 08005.

Sharon L. Auer
Acting Municipal Clerk