

RESOLUTION 2013-215

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING SENATE BILL S2601 WHICH PERMITS FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS COUNTIES TO ASSUME CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF BEACHES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

WHEREAS, the Honorable New Jersey State Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the Senate Environmental and Energy Committee, as primary sponsor has introduced into the current session of the New Jersey State Senate Bill S2601 which, "Permits fifth and sixth class counties to assume control and responsibility for operation and maintenance of beaches bordering the Atlantic Ocean"; and

WHEREAS, S2601 "would authorize counties of the fifth and sixth classes (Atlantic, Monmouth, Ocean and Cape May counties) to assume the control and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the beaches that border the Atlantic Ocean within each county; and

WHEREAS, S2601 authorizes a county to:

- "Establish a uniform beach fee and beach tag system within the county;
- To establish a uniform policy with respect to beach improvement, maintenance, and dune construction for the protection of properties near the beach;
- To realize economies of scale by dealing with the maintenance and operation of all of the beaches within the county through one entity"; and

WHEREAS, S2601 "requires the operation of the beaches (to) constitute a public utility of the county and the bill also provides counties that assume the control of beaches with an exception to the 2.5% cap on increases to final appropriations of the previous year for expenditures relating to the operation and maintenance of the county-controlled beaches"; and

WHEREAS, the operations of the beaches of the Township of Barnegat which S2601 proposes to place under the control of the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, has been and is at present, under control and responsibility of the citizens of the Township of Barnegat by way of their duly elected officials of the governing body's exercise of office; and

WHEREAS, said operation of the beaches of the Township of Barnegat provides a high level of quality services through an equitable cost sharing between taxpayers and beach users which has kept the cost of beach operations in the Township of Barnegat affordable for all citizens of and visitors to the Township of Barnegat; and

WHEREAS, a shift of responsibility for and control of the beaches bordering the Atlantic Ocean from the local governing unit to the government of the County of Ocean would have an immediate negative impact on both all the taxpayer of the County of Ocean and those who enjoy the beach in-so-far as the level of service at the current cost will not be able to be maintained with a county operation of the beaches; an increase in beach tag fees in the Township of Barnegat as costs for the operation/maintenance is assumed by uniform fee which on average will be higher than the current beach fees; and through an increase in county tax as a result of the exception to the 2.5% cap on increases in final appropriations as the county government attempts to create and pay for an increased level of expenses in a time of reduced property values as a result of the economy and Super Storm Sandy.

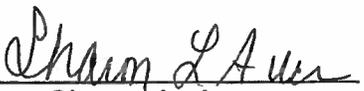
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and governing body of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey find that they are categorically opposed to S2601 and

respectfully respect that S2601 be immediately removed from consideration by the esteemed body of the New Jersey Senate; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senator Bob Smith Chairman Environmental and Energy Committee, Senator Christopher J. Connors 9th District, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, each municipality in Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May counties that border the Atlantic Ocean, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I, Sharon L. Auer, Acting Municipal 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 6th day of May 2013, in the Municipal Courtroom 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat NJ 08005



Sharon L. Auer
Acting Municipal Clerk