

RESOLUTION #2022 – 04

RESOLUTION OF THE OCEAN COUNTY MAYORS' ASSOCIATION, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED INCREASES TO THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), governed by N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified State and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans are self-funded meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from a SHBP fund supplied by the State, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Pensions and Benefits is responsible for the daily administrative activities of the SHBP, the State Health Benefits Commission is the executive organization responsible for overseeing the SHBP; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials and union representatives, annually consider the calendar year premium levels for the Local Government Employer Group of the SHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Government Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary rate increase for the 2023 Local Government Employer Group is 22.8%, which includes a 21.6% increase for Active, a 13% increase in Early Retiree, and a 0.7% increase for Medicare Retiree; and

WHEREAS, subsequent news accounts has Department of Treasury noting "rates for active members and early retirees would likely be increase between 12-20% across the various plans for the upcoming year"; and

WHEREAS, such proposed exorbitant rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer along with the local public employees at a time where there is record inflation, and

WHEREAS, the proposed premium increase for most active employees will take thousands more out of their paychecks annually and lead to huge costs for local governments that will translate into higher property tax bills for struggling families; and

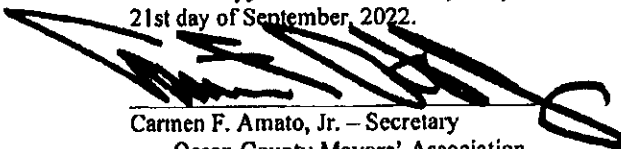
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ocean County Mayors' Association in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey call up the State Health Benefit Commission to reconsider the rate increase and strike a rate increase that is appropriate in the current economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ocean County Mayors' Association in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey urge the legislature to adopt legislation expanding the composition of the State Health Benefits Commission to include representatives from both municipal and county government management; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Ocean County Mayors' Association, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Menendez, Senator Booker, Congressman Van Drew, Congressman Kim, Congressman Smith, Senator Connors, Senator Holzapfel, Senator Thompson, Senator Singer, Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblyman Catalano, Assemblyman McGuckin, Assemblyman Clifton, Assemblyman Kean, Assemblyman Thomson, Ocean County Board of Commissioners, All Ocean County Mayors, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I, Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Secretary of the Ocean County Mayors' Association do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted at an Ocean County Mayors' Association regular business meeting held on the 21st day of September, 2022.



Carmen F. Amato, Jr. – Secretary
Ocean County Mayors' Association
Mayor – Township of Berkeley