

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 21-24

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL S3375

WHEREAS The Statewide Insurance Fund (“Fund”) was created to provide a cost-efficient means of supplying workers’ compensation benefits to injured municipal and other public employees including emergency volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Fund is not a traditional, profit-making insurance company, but rather is composed of individual municipalities, counties, municipal utilities authorities and other local government entities whose budgets are all funded by taxpayer or public rate payers; and

WHEREAS, because the Fund’s members are funded, in large, by tax dollars, and because the Fund has determined that Senate Bill 3375 will increase workers compensation costs drastically, creating an undo burden to the taxpayers and rate payers of its members; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3375 requires significant changes to the Workers’ Compensation Act where current law already has provisions in place to protect injured workers from claim abuse and requires all reasonable and necessary medical care be provided in a timely manner, subject to penalty; and

WHEREAS, any communications between the patient, a physician, a joint insurance fund, an insurance carrier and its representative, are already governed by Court Rules, the rules of evidence, and both medical and legal ethical standards; and

WHEREAS the hallmark of the New Jersey Workers Compensation Act is the obligation of the employer to provide medical benefits to an injured worker, as long as the injury or illness arises out of and in the course of employment, tantamount with the obligation to provide medical care, is the employer’s statutory right to authorize the medical provider and the treatment to be administered. This bill would do nothing more than shift the entire balance of an already equitable system, to one side, to the detriment and greater cost of the employer.

WHEREAS Senate Bill 3375 will not serve the interest of the taxpayers and rate payers in New Jersey because it will increase the costs associated with workers’ compensation claims by at least 35% and these costs will be borne by the taxpayers of individual municipalities, counties, municipal utilities authorities and other public rate payers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, Sussex County, New Jersey that it strongly opposes the adoption of Senate Bill 3375 and urges the Governor, State Senators and Assemblymen to protect taxpayers and rate payers from unnecessary and unwarranted charges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, all members of the New Jersey State Senate, all members of the New Jersey State Assembly and Statewide Insurance Fund.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Lafayette Township Committee at a meeting duly held on April 6, 2021.

Anna Rose Fedish, RMC
Municipal Clerk