

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2011-30

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL NO. 2794, AN ACT PROMOTING THE
SHARING OF SERVICES AMONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND GRANTING
THE LOCAL UNIT ALIGNMENT, REORGANIZATION, AND CONSOLIDATION
COMMISSION (LUARCC) GREATER POWERS AND DUTIES

WHEREAS, New Jersey's citizens pay the highest property taxes in the nation and are in desperate need of real property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of services among local government units and the possible consolidation of local units have the potential to produce municipal savings and promote relief for our property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette Township has been proactive in establishing shared service agreements with neighboring municipalities and local government units, with over 20 shared service agreements in place to date; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for reform to remove many of the impediments to shared services and consolidations caused by terminal pay requirements, employee tenure provisions and Civil Service statutes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, many of the provisions in Senate Bill No. 2794 have the potential to lower the costs of shared services, however there are other provisions of the bill in its current form that raise serious concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lafayette is opposed to Senate Bill No. 2794 as proposed in its current form for the following reasons:

1. The provision in Section 7.f of the bill provides that if a majority of the voters of a municipality do not approve a shared services proposal as recommended/ordered by LUARCC and implement that agreement within 14 months, the State shall reduce the amount of state aid allocated to the municipality by the total net savings estimated in the shared services proposal. The Township opposes any proposal that on one hand allows the voters to express their will; but on the other hand informs the voters that will be punished if their will does not agree with that of the majority of the LUARCC members.
2. The bill as proposed requires a legislative veto to void a LUARCC proposal. The Township opposes the imposition of a Legislative veto of a LUARCC proposal instead of vesting the decision to reject the proposals in the local governing body who are elected and must answer directly to the citizens who would be affected by the shared service proposal.
3. The bill as proposed requires that every recommendation by the LUARCC be subject to a vote by the citizens of the affected municipality. The Township opposes this requirement because in most instances the local governing body is better able to judge the merit of the proposal in a more expeditious and cost-effective matter, and can determine when a proposal should go before the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette strongly believes in the cost-saving benefits of shared service agreements as a mechanism for property tax relief and more efficient government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Township Committee opposes Senate Bill 2794 in its current form and urges the New Jersey Legislature to not adopt the bill in its current form and to consider amending the bill to address the concerns detailed above.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of this resolution to Senator Stephen Sweeney, Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblywoman Alison McHose, Assemblyman Gary Chiusano and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Lafayette Township Committee at a meeting held on July 5, 2011

AnnaRose Fedish, RMC
Municipal Clerk