

**TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD  
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 2017-10-9**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE  
PROPOSALS REGARDING THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT  
AND THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation because the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills fail to adequately protect taxpayers, municipalities, and especially, municipal clerks from abusive, harassing, and purposefully confrontational individuals who submit voluminous requests for no legitimate reason; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meetings Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who the Legislature has already loaded with responsibilities beyond the scope of their office, would be stretched even further than current law requires without a single dollar of additional resources provide to, or authorized to be collected by municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, some municipalities are more equipped than others to meet the burdens that would be imposed by Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, however, without assistance of any kind from the States or the courts, every municipality would be on its own to meet the myriad new requirements of the law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, that the Legislature is strongly urged to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while providing

municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 from becoming law.

**MOTION:**                    **SECOND:**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**CERTIFICATION**

I, **LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify this to be a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mansfield Township Committee at their Regular Meeting held on October 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Complex.

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**LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR**  
**Municipal Clerk**