

MAYOR and COUNCIL of the
BOROUGH of HO-HO-KUS
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Resolution # 16-54

Subject: Oppose Senate Bills.

Dated: March 22, 2016

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILLS S 781 AND S 782 THAT ARE
ATTEMPTING TO FURTHER REVISE OUR CURRENT OPRA AND OPMA LAWS**

WHEREAS, Senate bills S 781 and S 782 are attempting to further revise our current OPRA and OPMA laws in the name of transparency, and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Bergen County League of Municipalities (BCLOM) which represents all 70 municipalities in Bergen County, that the existing OPRA and OPMA laws already make municipalities transparent, and

WHEREAS, there comes a time when staffing and budget requirements are exhausted just to accommodate a select few people who bombard our municipalities with public records requests, and

WHEREAS, our websites are always updated and contain all the information required by law; our meeting minutes are online and available by the next meeting or as soon as reasonably possible; our agendas and budgets are online for the public; and

WHEREAS, under the existing laws OPRA fees are unreasonable for the amount of time and effort that must go into searching for "older" documents; it take valuable time away from our staff — not only in the Clerk's office — but also in many other departments that may be involved in the same request, and

WHEREAS, the OPRA law also allows outside businesses seeking construction permits and plans or animal rights groups to utilize municipal services for their private commercial gain, and

WHEREAS, the OPMA laws for Open Public Meetings, proposed changes will add secretarial expenses and additional reports to the cost of running subcommittee meetings, and

WHEREAS, subcommittee meetings are open to the public and rarely do people wish to come, and

WHEREAS, subcommittees are mostly volunteers along with representatives from the local governing body; to produce minutes in a formal fashion whether quarterly or semiannually would be another unfunded mandate, and

WHEREAS, subcommittees keep notes and any formal actions or expenditures ultimately require governing body approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BCLOM respectfully requests the New Jersey Senate and Assembly take no further action on Senate bills S 781 and S 782.

	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Randall						
Councilmember Troast	X		X			
Councilmember Shea		X	X			
Councilmember Rorty			X			
Councilmember Shell			X			
Councilmember Iannelli			X			
Councilmember Fiato			X			

Carried Defeated
 Tabled
 Approved
Consent Agenda

This is to certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council on March 22, 2016

Laura Borchers, RMC/CMR
Borough Clerk

