



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

RESOLUTION 22-132

RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE BUDGET CAP LAW TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR INCREASING INSURANCE COSTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45, et. seq., a municipality is required to limit any increase in its levy to 2.0% and any increase in appropriations to 2 1/2% or the cost-of-living adjustment, whatever is less, over the prior year's final appropriations subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, all local public entities, including participating municipalities in the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL), has incurred an estimated \$50 million in COVID related worker's compensation claims and it is anticipated that these costs will continue to increase as a result of long-term COVID cases; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 New Jersey Department of Labor decision regarding worker's compensation funding has generated increased costs to the members of the MEL by over 10% in order to cover claims that were previously funded by the State pension system; and

WHEREAS, a recent amendment to the sexual molestation statute of limitations will increase total liability costs for members of the MEL system by an estimated amount of 6% in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of weather-related catastrophic claims and corresponding impacts are anticipated to increase property insurance costs by over 10% per year; and

WHEREAS, cyber liability events throughout the country have resulted in twice the amount of premium costs in 2022 and such costs are expected to accelerate at a pace far greater than the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, these increasing costs, regulations, policy decisions and environmental impacts are occurring when many other items and costs in municipal budgets are also increasing at an inflationary rate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands that it urges the New Jersey Legislature to amend N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45 to provide that appropriations in the first three years after the effective date of such an amendment for liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance, cyber insurance, and property insurance be exempt from the Appropriation CAP and the Levy CAP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the New Jersey Legislative representative for the Borough of Highlands.

Motion to Approve R 22-132:

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CERVANTES						
CHELAK						
MELNYK						
OLSZEWSKI						
BROULLON						

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF VOTE: May 18, 2022

Nancy Tran, Acting Municipal Clerk
Borough of Highlands