

RESOLUTION NO. 147-2025
OPPOSING A-2145 AND S-2373 THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION LEGAL AND MEDICAL COSTS

Councilmember Leckstein introduced and offered for adoption the following Resolution; seconded by Councilmember Bieber:

WHEREAS, the legislature is currently considering A-2145 and S-2373 allegedly to protect public safety workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, this protection already exists and claims involving PTSD are routinely adjudicated in the workers' compensation system; and

WHEREAS, it is also well established in NJSA 34:15-39.1 that employers may not discharge, harass, or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against an employee on the basis of a health-related matter, including post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, our Supreme Court ruled in Lally v Copygraphics (85 NJ 668 1981) that an employee who is retaliated against for pursuing a workers' compensation claim has recourse both before the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and in civil court; and

WHEREAS, under the current law, the plaintiff's attorney receives a fee in workers' compensation matters of 25% of the award not including medical bills; and

WHEREAS, under A-2145 and S-2373, the attorney will receive a fee of one-third of the entire claim including medical bills; and

WHEREAS, under current law, medical providers are paid based on a fee schedule negotiated with a network of providers, typically about 50% of the rate paid by someone not covered by insurance; and

WHEREAS, under A-3245 and S-2373, the determination that a first responder has suffered job related PTSD can be made by any licensed physician or licensed mental health professional, even if the medical provider has no experience treating PTSD; and

WHEREAS, this provision effectively eliminates any incentive for providers to join a network panel; and

WHEREAS, A-2145 and S-2373 will pose a significant cost increase for taxpayers, municipalities, counties, and the state at a time New Jersey workers compensation rates are the highest in the nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Sea Bright, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, do hereby oppose the adoption of A-2145 and S-2373; and

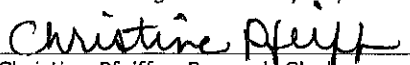
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the legislative delegation of the 13th District, along with the Governor, Senate President and Assembly Speaker.

Roll Call:	Bieber,	Catalano,	Gorman,	Keeler,	Lamia,	Leckstein
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes

July 15, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Christine Pfeiffer, Borough Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Sea Bright, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, at a Council Meeting held on July 15, 2025.


Christine Pfeiffer, Borough Clerk