

**BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R16-173**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S979

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Woodland Park, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey desire to adopt a resolution supporting and urging the New Jersey Legislature to pass S979 and the Governor to sign it into law; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a statute governing the disbursement of compensatory healthcare benefit waivers to municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 law was designed to encourage municipal employees to take a compensatory waiver instead of accepting multiple publicly-funded health benefits; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 law resulted in a cost-savings for municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 law was later expanded to cover a wider number of public employees, resulting in cost-savings for many public bodies and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, since 1995 the laws regarding public employee healthcare benefits have been amended several times, reducing the share paid by taxpayers for public employee healthcare benefits and limiting the conditions under which an employee may receive such benefits; and

WHEREAS, the size of compensatory waivers and the conditions under which they may be received have not been changed in accordance with changes to healthcare benefits; and

WHEREAS, the disbursement of compensatory waivers no longer provides cost-savings to many public bodies; and

WHEREAS, passage of S979 would limit a public employee of the State, a local government, or a local board of education, or agency or authority thereof, to receiving health care benefits coverage from only one public employer of this State, if the employee holds more than one public position simultaneously. If the employee has a spouse who is also a public employee eligible for health care benefits coverage from a public employer of this State, the employee and spouse would be required to select coverage together under only one plan or program. The bill prohibits a public employee so limited from continuing to receive any payment from the employee's public employer for waiving the health care benefits coverage provided by the employer; and

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WHEREAS, passage of S979 would bring the law back in line with the original intention of the 1995 law by adjusting the conditions for receiving a compensatory healthcare benefit waiver and the size of those waivers; and

WHEREAS, passage of S979 would change eligibility for payments for waiving health care benefits so that payments may be granted only if the employee is eligible for other health care coverage provided by an employer other than a public employer of this State, and provides that a local elected official will not be eligible for a payment in consideration for filing a waiver of any health care coverage; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Woodland Park hereby urges the New Jersey Senate to pass S979; the New Jersey General Assembly to introduce and pass an identical bill; and further urges Governor Christie to sign the bills into law should it reach his desk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Steven Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

Record of Mayor and Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Spinelli					Kallert				
DeCesare					Pascrell				
Gatti					Mayor Kazmark				
Holloway									

This Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Woodland Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the 18th day of May, 2016. Signed and sealed before me.

Kevin Galland, Municipal Clerk

May 18, 2016
Dated