

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO AMEND SECTION 403.7033, FLORIDA STATUTE, UNDER HOUSE BILL 93 AND SENATE BILL 162 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE SMALL COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO REGULATE OR BAN DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS, AND IF THESE BILLS ARE SUCCESSFUL, TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING LARGER MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES TO REGULATE OR BAN SUCH BAGS IN A SIMILAR MANNER

WHEREAS, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, billions of disposable bags are used in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, disposable bags contribute to litter and pollution, harm land and marine wildlife, clog storm drains, interfere with landfill operations, and burden public works departments; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, depending on a shopper's habits in one year, a single reusable bag replaces between 56.8 and 315.15 disposable plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, Florida law currently prohibits local governments from banning, regulating, or taxing disposable plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, identical Senate and House bills, SB 162 by Senator Rodriguez and HB 93 by Representative Richardson, have been filed for consideration during the 2017 session of the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, SB 162 and HB 93 would provide coastal municipalities with populations under 100,000 the authority to establish a short-term pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, by authorizing small coastal municipalities to establish short-term pilot programs regulating disposable plastic bags, these bills would enable such municipalities to determine how to most effectively address the environmental concerns caused by disposable plastic bags in their communities, and would also help illuminate which measures can be most effective in discouraging the use of disposable plastic bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags instead; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to support SB 162, HB 93, or similar legislation that would authorize small coastal municipalities to establish a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags, and if successful, to consider authorizing larger municipalities and counties to regulate or ban such bags in a similar manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact SB 162, HB 93, or similar legislation that would authorize small coastal municipalities to establish a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags, and if successful, to consider authorizing larger municipalities and counties to regulate or ban such bags in a similar manner.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor, State President, House Speaker, Senator Rodriguez, Representative Richardson, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Legislative Affairs Department to amend the 2017 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

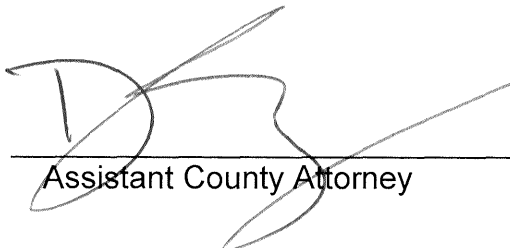
Commissioner Paulette Burdick, Mayor	-	_____
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Vice Mayor	-	_____
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	-	_____
Commissioner Dave Kerner	-	_____
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams	-	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger	-	_____
Commissioner Mack Bernard	-	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Comptroller Palm Beach County

By:  _____
Assistant County Attorney

By: _____
Deputy Clerk