



Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

www.southernshores-nc.gov

A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING THE CURRENT BAN ON RETAILERS PROVIDING CUSTOMERS WITH PLASTIC BAGS AND OF THE DEFEAT OF HOUSE BILL 271

RESOLUTION #2017-03-02

Whereas, on March 25, 2009, Senate Bill 1018, entitled " *A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO REDUCE PLASTIC BAG USE IN NORTH CAROLINA*", was introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly; and

Whereas Senate Bill 1018 was ratified on June 23, 2009 having passed both houses of the General Assembly as " *AN ACT TO REDUCE PLASTIC NONRECYCLED PAPER BAG USE ON NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTER BANKS*", and was signed by the Governor on June 24, 2009 as Session Law 2009-163 adding Part 2G. " *Plastic Bag Management*" to Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

Whereas the North Carolina General Assembly made the following findings in enacting Session Law 2009-163:

- (1) Distribution of plastic bags by retailers to consumers for use in carrying, transporting, or storing purchased goods has a detrimental effect on the environment of the State.
- (2) Discarded plastic bags contribute to overburdened landfills, threaten wildlife and marine life, degrade the beaches and other natural landscapes of North Carolina's coast, and, in many cases, require consumption of oil and natural gas during the manufacturing process.
- (3) It is in the best interest of the citizens of this State to gradually reduce the distribution and use of plastic bags.
- (4) Environmental degradation is especially burdensome in counties with barrier islands where soundside and ocean pollution are more significant, where removing refuse from such isolated places is more difficult and expensive, where such refuse deters tourism, and where the presence of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Seashore shows that the federal government places special value on protecting the natural environment in that vicinity.
- (5) The barrier islands are most relevant in that they are where sea turtles come to nest. North Carolina has some of the most important sea turtle nesting areas on the East Coast, due to the proximity of the islands to the Gulf

Stream. Plastic bag debris can be harmful to sea turtles and other land and marine life. The waters adjacent to the barrier islands, because they serve as habitat for the turtles, are particularly sensitive to waterborne debris pollution.

(6) Inhabitated barrier islands are visited by a high volume of tourists and therefore experience a high consumption of bags relative to their permanent population due to large numbers of purchases from restaurants, groceries, beach shops, and other retailers by the itinerant tourist population.

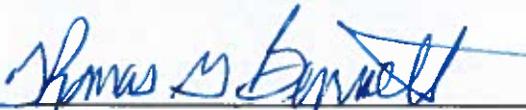
(7) Barrier islands are small and narrow, and therefore the comparative impact of plastic bags on the barrier islands is high. ; and

Whereas on March 7, 2017 North Carolina House Representatives Beverly J. Boswell (Dare, Beaufort, Hyde, and Washington Counties), John R. Bell, IV (Craven, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne Counties), and John R. Bradford, III (Mecklenburg County), as Primary Sponsors, filed House Bill 271 in the North Carolina General Assembly, entitled "A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO REPEAL THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IN CERTAIN COASTAL AREAS", calling for the repeal of the plastic bag ban cited in Part 2G of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

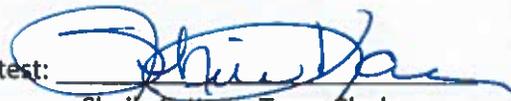
Whereas plastic bag debris continues to be harmful to the overall environment and beauty of North Carolina's coastal barrier islands, and negatively affects the overall quality of life for full time residents and returning seasonal visitors as well as wildlife.

Now Therefore, the Town Council of the Town of Southern Shores, a municipality located on one of North Carolina's coastal barrier islands in Dare County, and benefitting from the pristine beauty of the area by its residents and returning seasonal visitors enjoying an enhanced quality of life, does RESOLVE that the findings of the General Assembly in Session Law 2009-163 are hereby adopted as findings of this governing body, that Part 2G. "Plastic Bag Management" of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes should not be repealed, that Representatives Boswell, Bell, and Bradford should now seek to withdraw House Bill 271 or seek to have it postponed indefinitely, and alternatively that the reviewing legislative committees and both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly should defeat Representative Boswell's, Bell's, and Bradford's House Bill 271 and thereby not repeal the current statutory ban on plastic bags.

This the 21st day of March, 2017.



Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor

Attest: 
Sheila S. Kane, Town Clerk

