Proposal threatens lifeguard pensions

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Proposed legislation introduced last week could eliminate pensions for both present and future lifeguards. City Council voted to offer a resolution of support for the bill at May 3’s regular meeting.

The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Benjie Weldon, D-Atlantic, would amend the current legislation to create a pension fund for members of the lifeguard force of Cape May County. Currently, employees are eligible for a pension based on their years of service. The proposed new bill would establish a pension fund for members of the lifeguard force of Cape May County. The new bill would also create a pension fund for employees of the Cape May County Police Department.

The bill provides that the governing body of a municipality that has sea- guards or lifeguards on its payroll may adopt ordinances directing that portions of the law will not apply to the county. A municipality, becoming a member of the local board force subsequently the passage of such ordinance or rules, will contribute to a pension fund for lifeguards.

Board Chairman Richard Mahaney said Cape May is one of the few counties in New Jersey with its own board of lifeguards. He said the county would need to track the bill through the Senate and Assembly to see whether it passes before the end of the session.

“This is a bill that has major financial ramifications to the city, and the city in

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County tourism a $6 billion industry

Annual receipts have tripled from $2 billion in 1994 to $6 billion in 1999.

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