



Legislation Text

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Resolution in Opposition of House Bill 318: Protect North Carolina Workers Act

Department: Human Relations

Council District: All

Public Hearing: n/a

Advertising Date/By: n/a

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is for council consideration regarding the acceptance of a Resolution affirming the Human Relations Commission's opposition to HB318: Protect North Carolina Workers Act.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2015 legislative session, the NC House of Representatives passed 70-43 House Bill 318: Protect North Carolina Workers Act. House Bill 318 (HB318) limits the validity of identification developed by local initiatives (municipal or organizational IDs) to interactions with law enforcement. Officers can use alternative IDs to determine identity and residency if no other ID is available. Municipal/organizational IDs cannot be used by city or government agencies.

As cited in the 2015-16 General Assembly Records:

Section 11 adds a new Article 18 to Chapter 15A entitled "Identification Documents". This provision makes the use of certain documents unacceptable by any government official for purposes of determining a person's identity or residency. The documents are a matricula consular or other similar document other than a valid passport, and an identity document created by any person, organization, county, city, or other local authority except where expressly authorized by the General Assembly.

The new bill, ultimately halts access to any of the previously mentioned services to include, water resources, parks and recreation, and the coliseum for those who possess no other form of ID outside of the Faith Action ID. Denial of these services jeopardizes the welfare of *any* Greensboro resident who relies, primarily on the locally designated ID. The North Carolina Police Chief's Association feels that this bill will unduly burden the safety, well-being and positive relationships with many of our residents and opposed the bill.

While the initial focus has been the impact on the validity of the Faith Action ID, there is cause for rejection of the entire bill. House Bill 318 restricts access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The current bill jeopardizes access for those who are single and unemployed, which includes emancipated youth,

homeless populations to include veterans, and any resident who is currently undocumented.

The Human Relations Commission at their October 8, 2015 meeting voted unanimously to oppose the bill and requested that Council adopt a resolution affirming the Human Relations Commission's opposition to HB318: Protect North Carolina Workers Act. This item was referred to Council by the General Government Committee.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested and recommended that the City Council adopt the Resolution attached, drafted on behalf of the Human Relations Commission, which opposes HB318.