



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory
GOVERNOR

Community and Constituent Affairs

The Protect NC Workers Act (formerly HB 318)

We understand there is much fear and concern by the Latino community in regards to The Protect NC Workers Act (formerly HB 318). We believe it is essential that everyone clearly understand the bill, rather than through speculation and rumor. We have decided we would provide actual facts about that bill that other outlets may be misinterpreting and creating an atmosphere of fear to our immigrant communities.

The Protect NC Workers Act includes four sections: sanctuary ordinance prohibition, acceptable identification documents for state and local government entities, E-verify compliance, and requirements for food stamps to able-bodied adults without children.

Sanctuary cities is prohibited under this law. Such cities restricted law enforcement from gathering information to identify an undocumented person and ensure the person in question is not connected to other criminal activity, such as a member of a foreign cartel or gang that may be found in other databases beyond that of the state. As Governor McCrory stated, “by helping enforce the law, we can help find and deal with some of these cartels, of human traffickers and drug traffickers, and other people that may be breaking some very serious laws in our state and in our country.” The Governor also emphasized, “We must know who is in our country and we must respect them, while also verifying their verification.”

** It must be noted that this law, does not require law enforcement to collect this information, NOR does it obligate participation with the federal 287(g) program. Law enforcement retains ability to use their own discretion in making decisions to ask for status from someone they believe to be undocumented.

Identification Documents:

We understand that carrying a valid passport and other documents of proof of residency is not as convenient as a consulate matricula or local government/non-profit identification card, its validity is incomparable. As it is true in every country around the world, when visiting a foreign country, ones proof of identity is ones passport.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory
GOVERNOR

- ** The Protect NC Workers Act (formerly HB 318) prohibits use of Matricula Consular and other consulate documents as well as documents created by any person, organization, county, city, or local authority to determine a person's identity or residency by a justice, judge, clerk, magistrate, or other government official. However, it does not limit the use of passports.
- * Local governments that previously accepted either the Matricula Consular or other documents will continue to have authority to determine other acceptable forms of identification for the purposes determined by the local government.
- * Law enforcement officers may continue to use documents created by any person, organization, county, city, or other local authority to determine identity and residency if it is the only form of identification available at the time.
- *** To those who believe that this bill will interfere with trust between law enforcement and communities, we strongly believe that law enforcement trust is not found by obtaining an organization created ID or policies/ordinances placed upon its law enforcement. Trust is built through actions and communication. We encourage law enforcement to continue community dialogue and building trust with communities, including the immigrant community.

E-Verify and Work Requirements for Food Stamps:

Other items on HB 318- include the strengthening of E-Verify to cover a greater number of public contracts in North Carolina. Furthermore, the new law requires able-bodied adults without children who receive food stamp benefits to work or volunteer 20 hours a week, participate in qualifying education and training activities or comply with a workfare program. As Governor McCrory stated "A basic and core philosophy of the McCrory Administration, and that is we firmly believe that we need to help those who can't help themselves, while encouraging those that can. Which is why I also support this historic bipartisan welfare reform that encourages able-bodied people to get the necessary skills through voluntarism or job training to get back on their feet and become independent."

We hope this document provides the necessary information for community members, leaders throughout NC and our immigrant communities to better understand the law of Protect NC Workers Act.