

PAT McCrory

August 15, 2013

GOVERNOR'S OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE

House Bill 786: "An act to require the Department of Public Safety to study measures for addressing the problem of illegal immigration in this state; and to clarify which employers are subject to the state's E-Verify laws."

I am vectoing House Bill 786 because I promised to protect and find jobs for North Carolinians. This bill has been thinly disguised as a measure to help our farming community when in fact it applies to a broad spectrum of other businesses in both urban and rural areas. There is a loophole that would allow businesses to exempt a higher percentage of employees from proving they are legal U.S. citizens or residents.

This legislation increases the seasonal employee 90-day exemption to nearly nine months in a calendar year, and will put our legal residents at a disadvantage in the job market. We must do everything we can to help protect jobs for North Carolinians first and foremost.

This legislation needs further study, as I recommended months ago. However, the bill did not provide funding for a study.

North Carolina has the fifth highest unemployment in the country, and now is not the time to put our citizens at a disadvantage to find jobs. I have remained focused on job growth in North Carolina, and I will continue to do so in the future.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Pat McCrory
Governor of the State of North Carolina

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8-15-13 1:00pm mp