

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com>
Sent: 9/29/2015 6:03:48 PM
To: Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: councilgroup <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>, Robin Currin <RCurrin@ashevillenc.gov>, Joel Burgess <jburgess@ashevill.gannett.com>, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>, Virginia Daffron <vdaffron@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Metro Mayors: N&O Article of Interest - Legislature moves to take away local government authority

I believe this bill makes it imperative that we pass a minimum wage bill in Asheville as soon as possible. We need to challenge this immediately.

My vote would be for a city-wide minimum wage of \$10 with a gradual rise to \$15 over some period of years.

But the main thing is to force a confrontation.

Thanks,
-C

On Sep 29, 2015, at 1:26 PM, Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

In case you had not seen....

Sent from myiPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mary L. Selvidge" <selvidge@manningfulton.com>
Date: September 29, 2015 at 9:42:45 AMPDT
To: "Julie A. White" <JWhite@metromayors.com>
Subject: Metro Mayors: N&O Article of Interest - Legislature moves to take away local government authority

Legislature moves to take away local government authority

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article36915534.html>
BY COLIN CAMPBELL
ccampbell@newsobserver.com

Cities, towns and counties would lose the authority to pass certain types of ordinances and policies under legislation added in the final days of the General Assembly session.

The changes “which were not part of any other bill this legislative session” were added to an unrelated bill about professional counselors late Monday night. The additions were made in a conference committee, chaired by Sen. Chad Barefoot and Rep. Paul Stam of Wake County, which had been appointed to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the professional counseling bill.

Neither of the original versions had any provisions relating to local government powers.

The bill will likely be voted on in both the House and Senate on Tuesday and could be on Gov. Pat McCrory’s desk by the end of the day.

If approved, the bill would ban local governments from making:

• Ordinances establishing a higher minimum wage or other regulations involving private employment practices

• Ordinances governing housing and rental practices, likely including policies that mandate affordable housing

• Ordinances that “mandate or prohibit the provision of goods, services, or accommodation to any member of the public by nongovernmental businesses.”

The new legislation is already drawing outcry from local government officials. Wake

County Commissioner John Burns blasted the proposal in an email to supporters Tuesday.

“This bill includes pages and pages of bans on local ordinances including banning living wage ordinances, local affordable housing ordinances and nondiscrimination ordinances,” wrote Burns, a Democrat and frequent critic of the legislature. “This bill would prevent cities such as Raleigh, Apex, Wake Forest or the County of Wake from passing and implementing many ordinances that result in progress.

“It’s an unwarranted intrusion on local authority. The word outrageous barely covers how truly disgusting this kind of “government” is.”

The N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, which represents the state’s largest cities, is also voicing concerns about the process used to introduce the legislation.

“We have faith that the General Assembly will remember that these new provisions have not had the opportunity to be vetted nor has local government had the opportunity to weigh in, good or bad,” coalition director Julie White said. “Adding new provisions to a conference report in the late hours of an eight-month session doesn’t allow for a full vetting of the ideas and possible unintended consequences.”

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