



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 237, "AN ACT TO MODIFY THE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OTHERS EXEMPTION TO CERTAIN LAWS PROHIBITING WEARING MASKS; TO ENHANCE PUNISHMENT IF THE DEFENDANT WAS WEARING A MASK OR OTHER CLOTHING OR DEVICE TO CONCEAL OR ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE DEFENDANT'S IDENTITY; TO PROHIBIT GUBERNATORIAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS, SECRETARIAL DECLARATIONS, MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS, OR OTHER RULES OR REGULATIONS BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE FROM IMPOSING ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO BUSINESSES, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, OR OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THE SAME OR SIMILAR EMERGENCY; TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR IMPEDING A ROAD DURING A DEMONSTRATION OR OBSTRUCTING AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE FROM ACCESSING A ROAD AT ANY TIME; TO CREATE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR A DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZER OF A DEMONSTRATION THAT OBSTRUCTS AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE; AND TO AMEND CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS REGARDING FEDERAL POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS."

This legislation creates a gaping loophole for secret, unlimited campaign money in the middle of an election year. While voters are kept in the dark, this scheme allows anonymous out-of-state billionaires to flood North Carolina with campaign contributions to rescue extreme right-wing candidates that Republicans now fear will lose. The legislation also removes protections and threatens criminal charges for people who want to protect their health by wearing a mask.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper", written over a horizontal line.

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the 21 day of June 2024, at 10:44 AM for reconsideration by that body.

READ
JUN 24 2024
JAMES WHITE

The Capitol Building, Raleigh, NC 27602
Mail: 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301
Phone: (919)814-2100

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M. Cuyler