



HOUSE BILL 686: Freedom to Celebrate the Fourth of July.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	June 23, 2020
Introduced by:	Rep. Stevens	Prepared by:	Jennifer H. Bedford
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 686 would allow 4th of July parades and regulated firework displays.*

CURRENT LAW: Executive Order 141 prohibits outdoor mass gatherings for more than 25 people, including parades. The Order is currently set to expire June 26, 2020, but it may be extended or replaced with a similar Order.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would prohibit an Executive Order or declaration prohibiting parades, or a firework displays done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July.

Section 2 would prohibit municipalities or counties from prohibiting a parade, or a firework display done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July. This section would also bar a municipality or county from denying or revoking a reasonable permit for a parade or firework display. If a substantially similar permit was granted in 2019, the 2020 permit may be revoked or denied but the municipality or county's governing board must document a finding of good cause for the revocation or denial.

Section 3 would protect a person from prosecution for the Class 2 misdemeanor of violating an Executive Order or local declaration, for attending or participating in a parade or firework display on the 4th of July.

Section 4 would limit civil liability regarding the contraction of COVID-19, at a parade, or a firework display done in accordance with the pyrotechnics' laws, to be held on the 4th of July.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and expires when any applicable declaration of emergency prohibitions and restrictions expire or are terminated to permit parades and firework displays on the 4th of July.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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