

City of Framingham

The City Council of Framingham



ORDER NO. 2020-029 REQUEST OF COUNCILOR SHEPARD

UPON THE REQUEST OF COUNCILOR SHEPARD, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

Resolution on the Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility

Whereas, there are between 41,000 and 78,000 Massachusetts residents who cannot obtain a driver's license because of their federal immigration status; and

Whereas, many undocumented immigrants need to drive, whether it is for work, to take their children to school, or for other essential appointments; and

Whereas, to date, fifteen other states and the District of Columbia allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses, including many in our Northeast region, such as Connecticut, Vermont, New York, and New Jersey, in addition to Delaware, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, Nevada, Illinois, Washington, Maryland, Colorado, Hawaii and California; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs Association, made up of Chiefs of Police, Commissioners or Superintendents of Police from a municipal subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State Police, and Transit Police in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have as well endorsed the bill as "common-sense public policy that benefits everyone;" and

Whereas, the proposed bill has been endorsed by many city mayors, including those from Boston, Somerville, and Revere; and

Whereas, passing a bill that grants driver's licenses to qualified undocumented immigrants is in the best interest of the entire population of Massachusetts because immigrants wanting to drive legally will have to pass written and practical driver's exams, register their vehicles, and obtain automobile insurance; and

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Whereas, allowing undocumented immigrants the opportunity to obtain a driver's license will produce increased revenue for the State from license and registration fees; and

Whereas, immigrants with driver's licenses will more easily integrate into their communities which is beneficial to all Massachusetts residents;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Framingham calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility (S.2061/H.3012), that would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license regardless of their immigration status.

YEAS: Bryant, Case, Long, Ottaviani, Shepard, Stefanini, Steiner, Stewart-Morales
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Cannon, King, Leombruno
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing

PASSED IN COUNCIL: MARCH 17, 2020

A TRUE RECORD, ATTEST:

Lisa A. Ferguson, City Clerk
Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

Date Approved