

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROCEEDINGS OF FLOOR SESSION

In Raleigh, North Carolina
Wednesday, April 24, 2013
Transcribed by Brad Worley

Worley Reporting
P.O. Box 91447
Raleigh, NC 27675
919-870-8070

1 Representative Samuelson a question.

2 SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative
3 Samuelson, does the lady yield?

4 REP. SAMUELSON: I yield.

5 SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady yields.

6 REP. LUEBKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and
7 thank you, Representative Samuelson. I asked you
8 this in the Finance Committee, and I know that
9 there is sociologically -- and there's a difference
10 between Duke students and NCCU students, but I just
11 can't understand, and I want you to again explain
12 why I should tell a constituent who's from NCCU
13 that you're okay, you can run on down with that ID
14 and vote, but tell a student from Duke that he or
15 she can't do that. I just don't understand why you
16 drew the line where you did. It seems to me, you
17 could just as easily draw the line and include all
18 students as being eligible with their student ID's
19 to vote. What's -- what's wrong with that?

20 REP. SAMUELSON: We could have drawn the
21 line a number of places. We chose the cleanest and
22 clearest way to do it was to draw it on government-
23 issued ID's, and that we would do everything we
24 could to make sure that they had access to those
25 ID's, should they need them.

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1 don't want to match wits with them. But I don't
2 want to leave the unimpression that has been made
3 that there are 89,000 students that will be
4 disenfranchised if this amendment is not adopted.
5 There are very few college students in this state,
6 no matter where they go to school, that don't have
7 a driver's license. When you go to vote, you show
8 a State-issued ID, which is for all practical
9 purposes a driver's license.

10 Now, there are going to be a handful of
11 students, for various reasons, that don't have a
12 driver's license, and in that instance, then they
13 can show their student ID. But for most parts,
14 don't be fooled into thinking there are going to be
15 89,000 students that are going to be
16 disenfranchised. The vast majority of them have a
17 driver's license.

18 SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative Murry,
19 please state your purpose.

20 REP. MURRY: To debate the amendment.

21 SPEAKER TILLIS: The gentleman is
22 recognized to debate the amendment.

23 REP. MURRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
24 would ask members to oppose the amendment. And
25 there is a rational basis, that Representative

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1 Avila just articulated, with regards to requiring
2 government-issued voter ID's, and that's the
3 standard. It's a rational basis. It's the lowest
4 constitutional standard that the Supreme Court
5 applies. If there's any rational basis by which
6 we -- by which we make this decision, it's viewed
7 in the light most favorable to the deciding body,
8 which is the General Assembly. And so, from a
9 constitutional basis, it's the lowest standard, the
10 lowest hurdle that we have to overcome.

11 And we have a rational basis. It's a
12 government-issued photo ID that we're requiring.
13 That's the standard. And so, I would ask members
14 to oppose the amendment and to keep the rational
15 basis of our law.

16 SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative Adams,
17 please state your purpose.

18 REP. ADAMS: To speak a second time.

19 SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady is recognized
20 to debate the amendment a second time.

21 REP. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
22 Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, I
23 would call your attention to the six -- 36
24 independent colleges and universities on the list
25 that I gave you. Many of those are in your

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1 to vote for the bill.

2 SPEAKER TILLIS: Further discussion,
3 further debate? If not, the question before the
4 House is the passage of House Committee Substitute
5 Number 3 to House Bill 589 as amended on its second
6 reading. All in favor, vote aye; all opposed, vote
7 no. The Clerk will open the vote.

8 (Electronic vote recorded.)

9 SPEAKER TILLIS: All members wishing to
10 record, please do so at this time. The Clerk will
11 lock the machine and record the vote. 80 having
12 voted in the affirmative and 36 in the negative,
13 the House Committee Substitute Number 3 for House
14 Bill 589 as amended has passed its second reading,
15 and without objection, will be read a third time.

16 CLERK: The General Assembly of North
17 Carolina enacts.

18 SPEAKER TILLIS: Further discussion,
19 further debate? If not, the question before the
20 House is the passage of House Committee Substitute
21 Number 3 to House Bill 589 as amended on its third
22 reading. All those in favor, vote aye; all those
23 opposed, vote no. The Clerk will open the vote.

24 (Electronic vote recorded.)

25 SPEAKER TILLIS: The Clerk will lock the

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1 machine and record the vote. 81 having voted in
2 the affirmative and 36 in the negative, the House
3 Committee Substitute to House Bill 589 as amended
4 has passed its third reading. The bill will be
5 engrossed and sent to the Senate.

6 Ladies and gentlemen of the House, the
7 chair is happy to extend the courtesies of the
8 gallery to a group of friends from my neck of the
9 woods: Pat Murray, Linda Angel, Eve Gregg, Randy
10 Long and Liz McDowell. Please stand and let us
11 welcome you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative
14 Richardson, please state your purpose. The House
15 will come to order.

16 REP. RICHARDSON: Personal privilege,
17 please.

18 SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady is recognized
19 for a point of personal privilege. The House will
20 come to order.

21 REP. RICHARDSON: I would just like to
22 announce that my LA was taken out today on
23 emergency. She's at -- well, she was. I don't
24 know what the status is now, but she was taken to
25 WakeMed North. So, we ask your prayers for her,

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