

O-1-17

Non-Discrimination of Foreign-Born Residents

Staff Report

This legislation will amend the Code of the City of Annapolis by extending equal rights and protections to foreign-born residents, while acknowledging equal rights for all individuals. This legislation also seeks to recognize the importance of accommodating culturally diverse contributions of foreign-born residents to social, religious, cultural, and economic life in Annapolis.

The Code amendments will encompass the addition of a new Chapter 3.50 with Sections setting forth definitions, prohibited conduct, and penalty provisions.

The legislation is premised on the following factors:

1. The City of Annapolis has a culturally diverse population that includes many foreign-born residents.
2. In particular, Hispanic and Latino populations are growing at a steady rate in the City of Annapolis and throughout the State of Maryland, rendering issues pertaining to foreign-born populations of ongoing importance to local and state government.
3. The Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs 2013 Annual Report indicates that Maryland's Hispanic population has increased by 35% since 2008.
4. It is the mission of the City of Annapolis to promote public trust in its government agencies and in its enforcement of laws.
5. The City of Annapolis encourages all individuals to report crimes to City law enforcement officials.
6. The United States Constitution vests in the Federal government the authority to enact laws governing which foreign-born residents are granted entrance into the United States and determining who among them may stay.

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