

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 1446

Short Title: Recognize Matricula Consular/Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Clodfelter.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

June 18, 2002

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE RECOGNITION OF THE MATRICULA CONSULAR
3 AS OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO
4 APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EDUCATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
5 AND PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES ON THE USE OF THE MATRICULA
6 CONSULAR AS IDENTIFICATION.

7 Whereas, the Mexican Consulate issues identification cards to Mexican
8 citizens who can prove that they have lived in the United States for at least six months,
9 have a birth certificate, and can provide a photographic identification card such as a
10 Mexican voter card or military identification; and

11 Whereas, the right of the Mexican Consulate to issue these identification
12 cards, known as Matricula Consular, to its citizens abroad is guaranteed by the Vienna
13 Convention of Consular Affairs; and

14 Whereas, since the September 11th tragedies, heightened security measures
15 have created a particular need for undocumented immigrants to possess a valid form of
16 identification, and the Mexican Consulate reports that demand for identification cards
17 has increased significantly since September; and

18 Whereas, the Matricula Consular contains several antifraud features,
19 including a numbering system, lamination, embossed lettering, and a database of all
20 issued cards, and the Mexican Consulate will begin issuing digitized cards in the
21 summer of 2002; and

22 Whereas, acknowledgment of the Matricula Consular would decrease the
23 processing times of law enforcement agencies when it is necessary to detain cardholders
24 for minor infractions, thereby saving the police valuable time and saving confinement
25 costs; and

26 Whereas, acceptance of the Matricula Consular also has the potential to
27 promote improved communication between Mexican immigrants and law enforcement
28 and to facilitate the reporting of crimes that might otherwise go unreported; and

1 Whereas, use of the Matricula Consular for identification would facilitate
2 access to some local services such as libraries and other life enrichment programs; and

3 Whereas, the Matricula Consular card is only used for identification purposes
4 and does not establish any type of legal status in this country, nor does it enable users to
5 obtain government entitlements such as welfare benefits, which nonresident immigrants
6 are not entitled to; and

7 Whereas, resolutions urging law enforcement agencies and public services
8 agencies to accept Matricula Consular as official identification have been adopted
9 across the United States, including the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland,
10 and Austin, as well as police departments in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota; and

11 Whereas, Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank, Citibank, First National Bank,
12 Suntrust Bank Inc., and other financial institutions across the United States have begun
13 accepting the Matricula Consular as identification, and in this State the Department of
14 Motor Vehicles already recognizes it as an acceptable form of identification; Now,
15 therefore,

16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly encourages law enforcement agencies
18 and public service agencies in North Carolina to officially acknowledge the Matricula
19 Consular as a form of identification in this State.

20 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the
21 Department of Crime Control and Public Safety the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars
22 (\$25,000) for the 2002-2003 fiscal year to provide education to law enforcement
23 agencies and public service agencies across North Carolina on the benefits of using the
24 Matricula Consular as identification in this State.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2002. The
26 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.