

Resolution 17-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HB17 AND SB 1158 WHICH PREEMPTS LOCAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS, PROHIBITS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM IMPOSING OR ADOPTING ANY NEW REGULATIONS ON BUSINESSES UNLESS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE; DIRECTING CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE BAY COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE BAY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES;

WHEREAS, Cities are voluntarily created and chartered by their citizens as the embodiment of local self-determination; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Florida voters amended the state constitution to confer broad "Home Rule" powers to municipal government, under Article VIII, Section 2(b); and

WHEREAS, HB 17 and SB 1158 contradicts the will of the people of Florida, who expressed an unequivocal desire for broad Home Rule powers in their state constitution; and

WHEREAS, HB 17 and SB 1158 undercut the intent of the citizens of the City of Springfield, who voted to incorporate their community and exercise the broad Home Rule powers granted by the Florida Constitution to govern themselves and, thereby, effectively address the unique concerns of their communities; and

WHEREAS, HB 17 and SB 1158 would impair municipal charter provisions specifically adopted and approved by local voters to define their preferred form of self-government and safeguard issues of perennial importance to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City's ability to timely act on local problems and opportunities will be limited by HB 17 and SB 1158 to a state Legislature that holds session only once a year, and whose ability to address local problems will be contingent on the relative effectiveness of its representative in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, under the plan of HB 17 and SB 1158, state legislators will find themselves spending increasing amounts of time arbitrating over local problems and legislating on local issues, and less time attending to pressing statewide needs; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes the opposition to HB 17 and SB 1158 is in the best interests of the residents and businesses of the City of Springfield, other cities and counties in the State of Florida, and ultimately the state itself; and

WHEREAS, the City would respectfully ask the state legislature to be mindful that regulations enacted by local governments have to be enforced by those same governments and, if excessive or burdensome, the peoples' local elected representatives are quickly made aware of those burdens and any unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, should HB 17 or SB 1158 become law, and not be overturned, the ability of the City Commission to narrowly address local issues of public concern would be destroyed.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, opposes the State of Florida's overbroad attempt to repeal the City's constitutional home rule power to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose the adoption of HB17 and SB 1158.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Bay County League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, the Bay County Legislative Delegation, and any other interested parties.

THIS RESOLUTION shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida this 6th day of March, 2017.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA

By: 
Ralph Hammond, Mayor

By: _____
Carl Curti, Commissioner

By: 
Phillip Dykes, Commissioner

By: _____
Jack Kennington, Commissioner

By: _____
Topeka Humphries, Commissioner

ATTEST:

D. Lee Penton, City Clerk