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Identification Card Legislation, February 25, 1977

Vern Riffe

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SPEECH
RADIO REPORT FROM THE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 25, 1977

THIS IS VERN RIFFE -- SPEAKER OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, THE HOUSE PASSED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR NONDRIVING, ADULT OHIOANS. THE HOUSE PASSED THE IDENTIFICATION CARD LEGISLATION - HOUSE BILL 90 - BY A MARGIN OF 82 TO 5 AND SENT IT TO THE SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION THERE.

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 90 - THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES WOULD ISSUE AN IDENTIFICATION CARD TO ANY OHIO RESIDENT WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, DOES NOT HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE - AND APPLIES FOR A CARD. THE CARD WOULD INCLUDE DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CARDHOLDER. THE CARD WOULD ALSO INCLUDE

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CARDHOLDER. THE CARD WOULD COST AN APPLICANT \$3.00. NO PERSON WOULD BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR - OR POSSESS SUCH AN IDENTIFICATION CARD; IT WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM.

THE INTENT OF HOUSE BILL 90 IS TO GIVE ALL ADULT NONDRIVERS THE CHANCE TO OBTAIN A WIDELY ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR CHECK CASHING, PROOF OF AGE, AND SO FORTH.

HOUSE BILL 90 IS SIMILAR TO LEGISLATION INTRODUCED LAST SESSION. THAT MEASURE WAS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY VETOED BY GOVERNOR JAMES RHODES.

IN OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION - THE HOUSE VOTED 88 TO 1 TO APPROVE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD GIVE COUNTIES THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT AGENCIES PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD TO NEEDY PERSONS.

THE LEGISLATION - HOUSE BILL 221 - IS INTENDED TO BOOST THE SUPPORT OF FOOD PROGRAMS FOR THE NEEDY. THESE PROGRAMS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS HAVE BEEN SEVERLY^E STRAINED AS A RESULT OF THE HARSH WINTER AND INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT. UNDER PRESENT LAW, COUNTY GOVERNMENTS CAN GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT AGENCIES PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES TO ELDERLY PERSONS, BUT THERE IS NO AUTHORITY FOR COUNTIES TO ASSIST SUCH AGENCIES' FOOD PROGRAMS.

SENATE APPROVAL OF THE FOOD ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION IS LIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THIS HAS BEEN VERN RIFFE, REPORTING FROM THE OHIO HOUSE.