

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
RESOLUTION #2011 - 7**

**Resolution Opposing HB 12  
(Procurement – Employee Uniforms and Equipment – Place of Manufacture)**

- WHEREAS, House Bill 12 proposes to prohibit a public employer, including a municipality, from knowingly buying, furnishing or requiring uniforms and other equipment for its employees unless those uniforms or other equipment are manufactured in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the exceptions from this prohibition could occur if the item or a similar item is not manufactured or available for purchase in the United States; the item or a similar item is not manufactured or available for purchase in the United States in “reasonably available” quantities; the price of an item or a similar item manufactured in the United States exceeds the price of a similar available item that is not manufactured in the United States by an “unreasonable amount;” or the quality of the item or a similar item manufactured in the United States is “substantially less” than the quality of a comparably priced, similar, and available item that is not manufactured in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, House Bill 12 directs the Board of Public Works to define “reasonably available,” “unreasonable amount,” and “substantially less;” and
- WHEREAS, it is not clear if “manufactured” in the United States means that both the fabric or material is produced in the United States and the assembly of the uniform or item is done in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park provides uniforms for public works, police and recreation department employees; and
- WHEREAS, none of the uniforms provided by the City of Takoma Park are manufactured in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the City has a multi-year contract for uniforms for public works employees that is approximately \$9,000 less per year than a comparable contract for uniforms would be if a “manufactured in the United States” requirement were imposed; and
- WHEREAS, if the Takoma Park Police Department were to switch to a uniform that is manufactured in the United States, for uniformity sake, all new uniforms would need to be purchased at once at a one-time purchase price of \$40,000 and continued higher purchase prices for replacement uniforms at a cost of approximately \$3,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, it is not clear that there would be a significantly higher price if the City were to purchase new Recreation Department uniforms, especially if team uniforms are not required to be manufactured in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in general, the City of Takoma Park prefers to patronize local establishments when making purchasing decisions, for both economic and environmental reasons; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the increased cost of uniforms for public works and police employees made in the United States is an “unreasonable amount” in the determination of the City of Takoma Park in these challenging fiscal times; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park would purchase uniforms or equipment made in the United States if the State of Maryland provided funds for the added cost of the purchases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park urges the Maryland General Assembly to provide an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 12 regarding the purchase of uniforms and equipment manufactured in the United States.

ADOPTED THIS 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2011.

ATTEST:

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Jessie Carpenter  
City Clerk