

South Carolina ‘Show Me Papers’ Dispute Is Settled

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CHARLESTON, S.C. — South Carolina said on Monday that it would no longer defend a key part of a 2011 law that required police to check the immigration status of people during stops.

State officials and a coalition of immigrant rights groups have agreed to settle a legal dispute over the law that was centered on its “show me your papers” section.

In documents filed on Monday in federal court in Charleston, the state attorney general, Alan Wilson, said the state interprets the provision to mean that police cannot detain someone solely to check papers after the original reason for the stop has ended.

South Carolina’s law also does not allow police to jail a person to determine immigration status, or to arrest someone who is believed to be in the country unlawfully, the state solicitor general, Robert D. Cook, wrote in a letter to Judge Richard M. Gergel.

“This opinion is very helpful to limit that kind of police misconduct,” said Andre Segura, a lawyer with the Immigrants’ Rights Project of the [American Civil Liberties Union](#). The project had asked the state to clarify what police could and could not do.

The federal Justice Department announced on Monday that it had joined the South Carolina agreement. Judge Gergel’s blocking of key parts of the law, including the “show me your papers” provision, was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. Wilson said in court documents that the state disagrees with those rulings, but that it would not continue to fight them.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/04/us/show-me-papers-dispute-is-settled.html>