



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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**MOORE SIGNS ON TO LEGISLATION AIMED AT MITIGATING ISSUES CAUSED BY ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**

**Boston** – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) has signed on as a sponsor of *An Act to Enhance Community Safety*, which is a comprehensive response to the growing concern of crimes committed by illegal aliens in the Commonwealth. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation seeks to address the strains placed on personal, municipal, and statewide finances as a result of illegal immigration. These strains result from enhanced public safety costs, burdens placed upon a limited job market with an enlarged workforce, the need for safe, affordable housing for our residents, and the availability of crucial yet diminishing services for our vulnerable populations. This legislation seeks to address, to the extent possible, those issues under the control of the Commonwealth.

“The federal government has failed to adequately address the issue of illegal immigration in such a way that the problem has become a burden for state and local governments,” said Sen. Moore. “While I would have preferred that state and local resources not be expended to address what Washington should be addressing, it has become necessary for us to take proactive steps to address the issues being created in Massachusetts by illegal immigration, including an undue cost to taxpayers and unfortunate public safety issues. That is why I am supporting this legislation.”

This legislation would require a report to the Legislature by the Executive Office of Public Safety in which they are to identify how EOPS will assist with the deployment of the Secure Communities Program. With such an advanced biometric interoperability program in place, municipal police departments will be better equipped to identify criminal aliens and quickly notify the appropriate federal agencies. Additionally, should the Commonwealth employ appropriate message routing technology, local law enforcement will have access to such biographic information as full name, date of birth, place of birth, gender, and photograph. As such, the report to the Legislature will include information about current technology in place and any upgrades necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the program.

The legislation would also requires that individuals presented to the court for various crimes or disputes should have their immigration status verified and confirmed. While there may be instances when illegal aliens should stand for their crimes in the jurisdiction where said crimes were committed, other judicial interactions are purely administrative and thus may be appropriate for federal intervention. Federal authorities, in particular Immigration and Customs Enforcement, should be alerted as to the presence of the unauthorized individual and allowed to initiate removal proceedings under the appropriate circumstances.

The bill increases penalties for the creation, dissemination, and use of false identification materials. It creates a specific offense for using the false information for obtaining or maintaining employment, and otherwise staggers penalties for the creation and dissemination depending upon the amount of documents. Additionally, it differentiates offenses for using a false liquor ID and the creation of such identification.

This bill seeks to protect and promote the integrity of public contracts by requiring those seeking access to public contracts certify that their employees are indeed authorized to work here. Additionally, any contractor who is

found to have employed an unauthorized worker in violation of federal law would be barred from bidding in the future. Additionally, for those seeking prospective contracts with public employers, they must utilize a program that certifies an employee's authorization to work within the United States, and thus, the Commonwealth.

Various sections of this bill seek to ensure that state resources and benefits are preserved for those lawfully entitled to them. These benefits include, for example, various family assistance and college grants. Additionally, provisions are included that require that those individuals seeking in-state tuition benefits meet the requirements of both Massachusetts residency and United States citizenship.

This legislation takes several steps to ensure that state subsidized housing is reserved for residents of the Commonwealth who reside here legally; individuals not legally residing in Massachusetts should never bypass or have priority over lawful residents. Additionally, provisions of this bill attempt to empower local officials to better enforce local building codes and prevent multi-bedroom apartments from becoming multi-family. A growing trend amongst certain landlords seems to be leveraging incredibly limited space to house the maximum number of occupants. This influx of additional residents creates a burden upon municipal services, including schools, as well as poses a significant safety and sanitary threat to the occupants. Those who practice these rental tactics can be subject to fines, relocation costs, as well as tuition reimbursements as part of this proposed legislation.

Additionally, the legislation requires anybody submitting an affidavit of indigency to submit their social security number in order to verify their income eligibility. This information would be transmitted to the Department of Revenue in order to ensure that those seeking this public benefit would indeed be eligible.

This legislation seeks to tighten the requirements necessary for registering a motor vehicle in our Commonwealth, and stiffens penalties for operating a motor vehicle without a license. Current fines range from \$100 to \$1,000. This legislation creates a progressive penalty starting at \$500 for a first offense, \$500 to \$1,000 and/or 30 days in jail for a second offense, and \$1,000 to \$2,000 and/or 60 days in jail for a third or subsequent offense. Also, as an additional resource for the arresting department, upon the third offense, the vehicle may be forfeited. This provision is similar to seizures used in various drug related and drunk driving offenses.

This legislation also seeks to identify those employers who knowingly or intentionally hire and employ unauthorized workers. The Attorney General is directed to establish a complaint process (which may be done anonymously) for employers with unauthorized workers and she, or a district attorney, is to investigate any accusations. Penalties would be included for filing a frivolous claim. In the event that the Attorney General or the district attorney find that the employer is indeed knowingly or intentionally employing an unauthorized worker, they are directed to (1) alert ICE as to the presence of the worker, (2) alert local authorities as to the presence of the worker, (3) alert DOR about the employer's actions, (4) alert ICE about the employer's actions, and (5) bring action against the employer.

The action against the employer includes the termination of those unauthorized employees, and a signed affidavit to the court acknowledging the termination and certifying that the employer will not knowingly or intentionally employ an unauthorized worker in the Commonwealth. Should the employer not comply with those provisions, the employer may be subject to the revocation of state issued licenses.

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