



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Alter
22nd Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 429
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Gary Romine
(573) 751-1492

Sen. Alter's Bill Strengthening Illegal Immigration Laws to be Referred to Committee

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, has requested that his bill cracking down on illegal immigrants in Missouri be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it will be considered in public hearings. Senate Bill 1250 empowers law enforcement to more effectively identify, detain and deport illegal aliens who are living or working in Missouri.

“Illegal aliens are draining Missouri resources, costing this state a good deal of money,” Alter said. “Illegal immigrants steal jobs and state tax money that is supposed to go toward providing education and health-care to hardworking, *legal* citizens.”

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), at least 22,000 illegal immigrants were residing in the Show-Me State as of 2000. This is a 38-percent increase from the 1996 figures. Federal immigration agents recently arrested 56 illegal aliens in Carthage and more than a dozen in O’Fallon.

“And there are more than that to catch, but without this measure, we won’t have the means to do it,” Alter said. “Because federal laws don’t do enough to protect Missourians, it is time that we take the matter into our own hands and give law enforcement more tools with which to uphold the law.”

The measure enables Missouri Highway Patrol members to receive federal training from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security so they can learn the best ways to enforce federal immigration laws on highways and interstates in Missouri.

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Also under the legislation, people who are in the country illegally will not be able to receive any taxpayer-funded assistance, such as health-care benefits and in-state college tuition status or other academic financial aid. To protect the right to vote, the bill requires voters to show federal or state photo ID at the polls.

A companion bill sponsored by Rep. Scott Rupp, R-Wentzville, is on its way in the House. Once referred to the appropriate committee, hearings will be held to get public input on the measures.

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