



# State Senator Harry Kennedy

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## Sen. Kennedy Votes Against Illegal Immigration Bill

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, today voted against an illegal immigration bill that received final approval in the Missouri Senate. Senate Bill 858 makes numerous changes to state law relating to illegal immigrants. Sen. Kennedy says he supports many of the provisions in the bill that seeks to crack down on the employment of illegal immigrants, but worries the bill presents challenges to local governments and businesses.

“I’m worried that this bill amounts to an unfunded mandate on our city and county governments, especially our courts and prison systems,” Sen. Kennedy said. “The mandatory jailing of people whose identities cannot be immediately established will lead to overcrowding in our city and county jails and could lead to the release of offenders who have done much worse than overstayed their visa.”

SB 858 bars cities from creating “sanctuaries” for illegal immigrants, it prohibits certain illegal immigrants from attending public universities, it bars illegal immigrants from receiving public benefits, and it prohibits employers from knowingly hiring illegal immigrants.

“I am very opposed to illegal immigration, but with the current economic downturn, I’m worried about imposing another unfunded mandate on our businesses and local governments,” Sen. Kennedy said.

The measure now moves to the House for consideration.

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