



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Bill Requiring Citizenship to Receive Benefits Passes Senate

JEFFERSON CITY – Immigrants will have to provide proof of citizenship in order to receive public benefits. Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, announced that his measure to require public assistance recipients to prove residency before receiving any benefits has received approval of the Missouri Senate. Engler's bill is a part of a larger immigration reform bill (SB858) that encompasses many aspects of public policy.

“Washington hasn't acted on problems caused by illegal immigration. We cannot afford to wait on them anymore,” said Sen. Engler. “We need to make sure that good jobs and our state's services are available to honest, legal residents.”

Senate Bill 858 addresses the problems of illegal immigration by cracking down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants with stiffer fines and penalties, banning illegal immigrants from attending public universities and junior colleges, and prohibiting illegal immigrants from receiving driver's licenses. The bill also includes a provision drafted by Sen. Engler (originally SB 1186) that reinforces the federal regulation and ensure that proof of residency is provided by anyone receiving public assistance, a stipulation the federal law leaves as a responsibility of the state.

“There are people who depend on these services to make ends meet throughout Missouri and the third district,” said Sen. Engler. “This measure will make sure there are safeguards to prevent illegal immigrants from stealing those benefits.”

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