



*Senator
Bill Stouffer*

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Toughening Illegal Immigration Laws

Missouri will soon be on the leading edge with laws directed at illegal immigration.

For far too long, we have had to sit back and watch as the federal government does nothing to curb the number of illegals who come into this country. Over the last two or three years, there has been talk of finding a solution to the challenges Missouri faces. This year, we were able to come together and find an answer. There were several bills in both the House and the Senate that addressed illegal immigration. In the end, all of these approaches came together to form [House Bill 1549](#), which addresses several factors of illegal immigration.

House Bill 1549 requires members of the Highway Patrol to be trained in enforcing existing immigration laws. They will train with the federal Homeland Security Department. If they arrest someone whose legal status cannot be verified through paperwork, they have 48 hours to make verification through Homeland Security. If it is then learned the person in custody is not in the country legally, the arresting law enforcement agency must then notify Homeland Security.

So-called "sanctuary cities" will be prohibited under the bill. Any city or town that would skirt the law and become a sanctuary city would then lose any state funding until they stop the practice. Illegal aliens will be prohibited from getting public assistance or driver's licenses. Punishment for transporting illegals will become stricter. The minimum will become one year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

This bill also addresses employers' roles in illegal immigration. Employers will now be prohibited from misclassifying an employee as an independent contractor. Violations will result in fines of \$50 per day,

per misclassified employee. Now, employers with five or more employees will have to fill out a 1099 miscellaneous form, with the same deadline as filing a Missouri Form 99 miscellaneous form. After the fifth violation, an employer will be fined up to \$200 for each infringement.

House Bill 1549 clearly states knowingly employing an illegal alien will result in the suspension of a company's local licenses, permits, and exemptions for 14 days. A second violation will result in suspension for a period of one year. A third or subsequent violation will result in permanent suspension.

For employers who have been awarded a state contract, hiring illegal immigrants will result in the termination of the contract and the suspension of the business entity from doing business in this state for a period of three years. A second or subsequent violation will result in the termination of the contract and the permanent suspension of the business entity from doing business in this state.

House Bill 1549 is a good plan. I am sure the subject of illegal immigration will be back again next year. But, you can rest assured we are doing everything we can to keep Missouri safe.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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