



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Chris Koster
31st Senate District

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Sen. Chris Koster Creates Missouri Omnibus Immigration Act

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Chris Koster (D-Harrisonville) last week unveiled a comprehensive and aggressive plan for deterring illegal immigration in Missouri, particularly aimed at employers who knowingly hire illegal workers.

[Senate Bill 1230](#) creates the Missouri Omnibus Immigration Act, which makes it illegal to employ unauthorized workers, as well as mandates that every employer in the state participate in a federal status verification system to validate their employees' work authorization status.

To verify the status of their workers, employers must submit an affidavit to the Department of Revenue accompanying the worker's tax information confirming that the employee is enrolled in the verification system. If employers knowingly alter information on the affidavit, they will be penalized. Employers will also be held accountable if they knowingly misclassify employees for taxing purposes.

"The failure of the federal government to adequately address the problem of illegal immigration in the workplace is becoming increasingly obvious," Sen. Koster said. "Missouri must take matters into its own hands and offer practical solutions to protect the jobs of our citizens."

Another aspect of the bill requires law enforcement officers to look into the immigration status of anyone who violates the law and is put in jail. If the individual is found to be in the state illegally, the officer then cooperates with any request from the federal government regarding detention or custody transfer. Under Sen. Koster's bill, Missouri would also designate state law enforcement officers to help enforce federal immigration law.

Finally, the Missouri Omnibus Immigration Act mandates that illegal immigrants would not be allowed to attend any Missouri public university or receive any type of public assistance or benefit.

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“Those who choose to come to this country illegally should not receive the same benefits as those who go through the proper channels to achieve citizenship,” Sen. Koster said. “As a state, we need to make a collective effort to curb the influx of illegal immigrants. The Missouri Omnibus Immigration Act is a comprehensive plan to fight illegal immigration from several different angles.”

Sen. Koster’s initiative has been referred to the Pensions, Veterans’ Affairs and General Laws Committee for further consideration. Committee approval would return the bill to the Senate floor for debate by the full body.

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