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Bounty hunters: Proposed bill aims to curb illegal immigration with \$1K rewards

by JESSICA A. BOTELHO | The National News Desk

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FILE - Migrants seeking asylum rest as they wait to be processed after crossing the border Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in San Diego, Calif. (AP Photo/Eugene Garcia)

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A Mississippi state representative introduced legislation that would pay bounty hunters to help the state find and deport people who have entered the U.S. illegally.

"This legislation is about keeping Mississippi communities safe," Republican state Rep. Justin Keen, who wrote the bill, told [FOX News](#) Friday afternoon.

"We've seen firsthand the danger posed by bad actors and violent criminals who enter this country illegally, like the innocent life of Laken Riley," Keen also told the outlet. "President Trump's administration has made it clear that deporting illegal immigrants is a priority, and we are proud to do our part here in Mississippi to help support his agenda and protect our citizens."

House Bill 1484 would allow the state to create what has been dubbed the "Mississippi Illegal Alien Certified Bounty Hunter Program" as a way to track down undocumented immigrants.

If the legislation is approved, "certified bounty hunters" would be eligible for a \$1,000 reward for every deportation they assist in making.

"The invasion stops now!" DeSoto County District Attorney Matthew Barton posted on X late Friday afternoon.

According to the proposed bill, "a person who commits the offense of trespass by an illegal alien shall forever be disqualified from" registering and voting in Mississippi elections, be able to drive in the state, apply for state or local public benefits, as well as become a legal resident of Mississippi.

The news comes just days after President Donald Trump was sworn in as the nation's 47th president.

"Deportation flights have begun," Karoline Leavitt, who is Trump's press secretary, said on X. "President Trump is sending a strong and clear message to the entire world: if you illegally enter the United States of America, you will face severe consequences."

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