

## **States crack down on illegal immigrants**

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### **Body**

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#### Arizona

Passed and enacted legislation in April 2010 making it a **state** crime for any **illegal immigrant** to be in the **state**, making it a crime to hire or shelter **illegal immigrants**, and requiring police to check immigration status of anyone, during arrest or any other "lawful contact," if they have "reasonable suspicion" the person is in the country illegally. Supporters called local police a "force multiplier" for federal immigration enforcement. The law was challenged by the federal government and advocacy groups and was partly blocked by federal courts in July 2010.

#### Georgia

Passed and enacted a law in May 2011 that allowed police to question "criminal" suspects on immigration status, outlawed hiring or sheltering **illegal immigrants** and required most companies to use federal ID checks for workers. Officials said the aim was to "eliminate incentives" for **illegal immigrants** to enter the **state**. Farmers and businesses protested, citing a loss of workers and income. A federal judge blocked police provisions, saying the law sought to create a climate of "hostility" and "fear."

#### Alabama

Passed and enacted a law in June 2011 allowing police to check immigration status at routine traffic stops, requiring schools to determine legal status of all new students, making it a crime for any **illegal immigrant** to conduct business or official transactions, and penalizing anyone who hires or does business with an **illegal immigrant**. Law was challenged by the Obama administration. Most provisions were upheld by a federal judge and went into effect in October.

#### Utah

Passed and enacted compromise legislation in March 2011 that sought to curb **illegal** immigration but allow some undocumented workers with families to remain as guest workers. It allowed police to check immigration status but only of individuals suspected of felonies or major misdemeanors. National rights groups have challenged the law, but **state** sponsors called it a balance of compassion, law and economic needs.

#### South Carolina

Passed and enacted a law in June 2011 similar to the Arizona and Alabama laws. A federal judge blocked the toughest provisions in December, but the governor and supporters said the federal government had ceded its authority over **states** on the issue by failing to prevent an influx of **illegal immigrants** into the country.

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## Indiana

Passed and enacted a law in May 2011 allowing local and state police to arrest anyone ordered deported by immigration courts. The law was challenged by the Obama administration and civil rights groups. A federal judge blocked parts of the law in June, calling it "seriously flawed," and said anyone arrested should have access to courts. State officials called the law an "indictment" of a federal failure to enact and enforce immigration policy.

## Colorado

Enacted a law in 2006 to curb illegal immigration by limiting public benefits and employment but did not empower police to generally question or detain individuals over immigration status. It said police must report people arrested for other crimes to federal immigration authorities only if they have "probable cause" to believe they are illegal. The law has not been blocked in federal courts; supporters said they were careful not to impinge on federal authority.

Other states

In the past several years, laws aimed at curbing illegal immigration through law enforcement and other means, similar to the Arizona legislation, have been introduced in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Michigan, Minnesota and Mississippi. Most bills failed, were delayed or were not brought to vote, in anticipation of federal court rulings.

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