

SENATE AGREES TO CURB IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE< THE MEASURE WOULD PROHIBIT PUBLIC AID TO< THOSE WHOSE SPONSORS CAN AFFORD TO SUPPORT THEM.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 1, 1996 Wednesday SF EDITION

Copyright 1996 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A09

Length: 785 words

Byline: Carolyn Skorneck, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The Senate yesterday agreed to bar immigrants from public assistance programs if the person sponsoring their move to the United States can support them.

"There are two choices," said Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R., Wyo.), the immigration bill's chief author. "Either a sponsor pays for a legal immigrant, or the taxpayers do."

The Senate bill says a sponsor's income would be deemed to be part of the immigrant's income if the immigrant seeks public assistance. The amendment by Sen. Bob Graham (D., Fla.) would have made poor immigrants, regardless of their sponsor's income, eligible for all but four types of aid. It was defeated, 62-37.

Also rejected, 54-45, were amendments by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) to guarantee legal immigrants access to government benefits such as emergency medical services, emergency relief, Head Start, immunizations and treatment of communicable diseases regardless of their sponsors' income.

"The public health is at stake, not just immigrants' health," he said.

School lunch programs were exempted under an amendment approved Monday.

The bill's emphasis is cracking down on illegal immigrants. It would nearly double the number of border patrol guards, authorize pilot projects for employers to easily verify a job applicant's eligibility, increase penalties for document fraud and immigrant smuggling, and deny welfare and other government benefits to illegal immigrants.

Graham won a 63-36 vote on his amendment to maintain the Cuban Adjustment Act, which allows Cuban immigrants to become permanent legal residents one year after they arrive here, legally or illegally.

VETO OVERRIDE. The House failed yesterday to override President Clinton's veto of a foreign-policy bill that the President rejected as intruding on his authority and harmful to U.S. security interests.

The 234-188 vote to override fell 48 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed.

SENATE AGREES TO CURB IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE< THE MEASURE WOULD PROHIBIT PUBLIC AID TO< THOSE WHOSE SPONSORS CAN AFFORD TO SUPPORT THEM.

The bill would have authorized \$13 billion over fiscal years 1996 and 1997 for the State Department and related agencies, a cut of \$500 million from present levels.

More than the cuts, the administration objected to a directive to abolish one of three agencies - the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency or the U.S. Information Agency.

Clinton also opposed what he said was language that would have restricted his ability to conduct foreign affairs and efforts by Congress to micromanage foreign policy, particularly in regard to China.

LIMITING LAWSUITS. Attacking President Clinton as beholden to trial lawyers, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich sent him legislation yesterday limiting damages in product-liability lawsuits.

In a ceremony staged for television cameras, Dole (R., Kan.) said the bill would reform a legal system that destroys jobs, raises prices, and discourages development of innovative and lifesaving devices.

Clinton promised to veto the bill, which limits punitive damages in federal and state courts to \$250,000 or two times the damages, whichever is greater. Opponents say it would trample states' rights and deprive consumers of legal redress against manufacturers of unsafe products.

Dole cited a study by the Center for Responsive Politics showing lawyers and law firms contributed \$2.5 million to Clinton's reelection campaign during the first nine months of 1995.

The consumer group Citizen Action said corporations and organizations favoring the bill gave \$5.9 million to members of Congress in 1995.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. The Clinton administration urged Congress yesterday to reject legislation sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole that would restrict U.S. affirmative-action programs, saying it was "blunt and extreme."

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Charles T. Canady (R., Fla.), would end the use of race and gender preferences by the federal government in employment, contracting and running programs.

It would allow affirmative action such as trying to increase minority or female applicants for jobs or contracts, as long as the final selection decision is nondiscriminatory.

The bill, Canady told the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, recognizes that a system of preferences "denies opportunities to those who have been guilty of no wrongdoing, simply because of their race or gender, while granting benefits to individuals who are not victims of discriminatory conduct."

But Deval Patrick, assistant attorney general for civil rights, said it was "such a blunt and extreme measure that it would work substantial harm." If the bill passes Congress, Patrick said, the Justice Department would urge President Clinton to veto it.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); INCOME ASSISTANCE (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); LEGISLATION (89%); VETO (89%); SUITS & CLAIMS (87%); LITIGATION (87%); US STATE IMMIGRATION LAW (78%); WELFARE BENEFITS (78%); SMUGGLING (78%); PRICES (77%); PUBLIC HEALTH (75%); DAMAGES (75%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (74%); POLITICAL PARTIES (73%); PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (73%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (73%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (73%); LAWYERS (73%); BORDER CONTROL (71%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (71%); BUSINESS TORTS (70%); FOREIGN POLICY (67%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (67%);

SENATE AGREES TO CURB IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE< THE MEASURE WOULD PROHIBIT PUBLIC AID
TO< THOSE WHOSE SPONSORS CAN AFFORD TO SUPPORT THEM.

EMPLOYMENT SEARCH (65%); PRICE INCREASES (65%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (64%);
PRODUCT LIABILITY (62%); PUNITIVE DAMAGES (62%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (61%);
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (60%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (60%);
ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT (50%)

Industry: LAWYERS (73%); PRICE INCREASES (65%)

Person: BILL CLINTON (90%); TED KENNEDY (58%); NEWT GINGRICH (58%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (92%); CHINA (79%)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

End of Document