

## **BILL WOULD GIVE IMMIGS BIG BRAKE ON LICENSE IDS**

Daily News (New York)

February 3, 2005 Thursday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.



**Section:** SUBURBAN; Pg. 4

**Length:** 344 words

**Byline:** BY JOE MAHONEY DAILY NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

### **Body**

---

ALBANY - Efforts to let immigrants without Social Security cards drive legally swung into the fast lane yesterday with introduction of a **bill** that would allow a substitute **ID**.

Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (D-Sunset Park) was joined by freshman Assemblyman Jimmy Meng (D-Flushing) in calling for an end to state threats to strip hundreds of thousands of immigrants - some here legally, some not - of their **licenses**.

"It's unacceptable that people working hard to support their families are being treated as second-class citizens," Ortiz said.

Meng, the first Asian-American to serve in the state Legislature, said **license** suspension notices being sent out by the state Department of Motor Vehicles have thousands of new New Yorkers in a panic.

"This only forces people to live in the shadows of society," he said. "It scares people."

The checks into the reliability of New York **licenses**, led by state Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Raymond Martinez, are part of a national effort to prevent terrorists from getting state identification cards.

The 19 skyjackers who pulled off the worst terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil had obtained numerous driver's **licenses** to advance their plot.

Ortiz's proposal would let immigrants use federal taxpayer **ID** numbers as a substitute for Social Security cards.

The idea got a chilly reception from the DMV, which insists public safety will be compromised if taxpayer **ID** numbers are used by **license** applicants. "They're not considered valid identification outside the tax system," said agency spokesman Joe Picchi.

In tightening up on its pool of **licensed** drivers, New York is simply following a state law that requires the collection of Social Security numbers to help authorities track down deadbeat noncustodial parents, Picchi added.

But that bureaucratic reasoning was of no comfort to a Mexican immigrant named Santiago Sanchez, a 32-year-old truck driver in Poughkeepsie.

"We are not terrorists," said Sanchez, who got a suspension letter last year but has gotten his **license** situation straightened out. [jmahoney@nydailynews.com](mailto:jmahoney@nydailynews.com)

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** TAXES & TAXATION (90%); DRIVERS LICENSES (89%); LICENSES & PERMITS (89%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (89%); US SOCIAL SECURITY (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (76%); DRIVERS LICENSE SUSPENSION & REVOCATION (74%); HIJACKING (72%); TERRORISM (72%); CHILD CUSTODY & SUPPORT (70%); TAX LAW (70%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (67%)

**Industry:** DRIVERS LICENSES (89%); DRIVERS LICENSE SUSPENSION & REVOCATION (74%)

**Geographic:** ALBANY, NY, USA (74%); NEW YORK, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2005

---

End of Document