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Driver's License Plan Stops Illegals

Agema measure ensures accurate information, safety

Michigan's homeland security efforts will be stepped up with tighter requirements for receiving a driver's license under legislation introduced today by Rep. Dave Agema.

HB 4881 will primarily limit the issuance of a driver's license to only U.S. citizens and foreigners legally in the country whose documentation is verified at the time of application. Michigan driver's licenses issued to legal aliens would be valid only for as long as their authorized stay in the U.S., and would be a different color to indicate its temporary status and expiration date.

"This bill will prevent illegal immigrants, including Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihadist members, from obtaining Michigan driver's licenses, eliminating their ability to board airplanes, drive hazardous materials and enter the job market," said Agema, R-Grandville.

This bill would require the Michigan Secretary of State's office to cross-check an applicant's social security number with the federal government at the time of application. According to the Social Security Administration, thirty-six states and the District of Columbia already validate the authenticity of social security numbers.

"I strongly believe it is time that Michigan joins in this effort to protect our borders and our budget by verifying personal identification documents before a driver's license is issued, said Agema."

Other aspects of the bill include:

- Limiting the documents allowed to be used as evidence of lawful status to non-foreign documents, except for official passports (i.e. no foreign ID cards, birth certificates, etc);
- Maintaining the current prohibition against issuing a driver's license to a foreign exchange student.

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"From my Air Force experience, I understand matters of national security and take those issues very seriously," Agema said. "Since 9/11, we are faced with an enemy that doesn't wear a marked uniform, so there's little way to identify them. This bill will"

"The cost of not taking these safety precautions is great due to outside threats that can result in the potential loss of life. This move also can help the state with significant long-term savings by stopping the infiltration of illegal aliens, who add to Michigan's education, welfare, health care, and prison costs and allow legal Michigan residents to keep jobs that otherwise would be hired out to illegals.

A companion bill will be introduced soon that places the same rules and restrictions on obtaining a Michigan personal identification card.

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