

Advertisement

NEWS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | DISCUSSIONS | PHOTOS & VIDEO | CITY GUIDE | CLASSIFIEDS | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE

Shopping Deals >>

SEARCH:

News Web results by Google™

| Search
Archives

washingtonpost.com > Politics > Special Reports > Immigration Debate

Print This Article
E-Mail This Article

Advertisement

Advertisement

The Immigration Debate : [Three different perspectives >](#)



In Colorado, a Deal On Immigration Bills

GOP Angered as Issue Won't Go to Voters

By [T.R. Reid](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, July 12, 2006; Page A03

DENVER, July 11 -- Ending a bitterly divisive special session of the legislature, Colorado Gov. Bill Owens (R) cut a deal with Democratic leaders on a package of bills to deny some state services to illegal immigrants and to punish employers who hire them.

But the compromise late Monday brought angry criticism of the governor from some of his GOP allies because it did not include a key Republican goal: a tough referendum on illegal immigration on the November ballot.

Owens had called the special session specifically to reverse a ruling last month by the state Supreme Court that removed the proposed referendum from the ballot. In the end, though, the governor agreed with Democratic leaders of the legislature to deal with the red-hot political issue through legislation rather than a ballot issue.

Advertisement

5.05% APY*

HSBCdirect.com

HSBCdirect.com



NO FEES NO MINIMUMS FDIC INSURED†

START SAVING

Featured Advertiser Links

[Refinance Rates As Low As 2.9% - FREE QUOTES!](#)

[\\$200,000 loan for \\$917/mo. Bad credit OK](#)

[For College Graduates, Reduce Your Student Loans](#)

[Barbra Streisand Tickets, Tim McGraw Tickets w/ Faith Hill, NASCAR Tickets, Eric Clapton Tickets](#)

[Pesticides, Boat Accident, Falls, Benzene, PCE/TCE](#)

[\\$145,000 Mortgage for Under \\$484/Month!](#)

[Promotional Pens, T-shirts, Custom Hats](#)

[Cool Gadgets, Great Deals, Visit CircuitCity.com](#)

In passing its crackdown on illegal immigration, Colorado is following the national trend in which state legislatures are taking the initiative on an issue that used to be considered a matter for the federal government.

More than 60 bills dealing with undocumented immigrants have been approved in 27 states this year, according to a tally last week by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The states have been moved to act in large part because "we seem to have a Congress in gridlock on the issue," said Ann Morse, who tracks immigration matters for the group. "State legislators feel if they don't act, nobody will."

Congressional leaders have identified illegal immigration as a key concern in the current session, but it now appears unlikely that any bill will emerge from Congress before the November elections.

Colorado is the home of [Rep. Tom Tancredo](#), the Republican who has become a national leader for groups that want to increase border enforcement and deport illegal immigrants. The cause has won support from conservative Republicans here and from some Democrats, including Richard D. Lamm, who served three terms as governor.

A group headed by Lamm and senior Republicans got more than 50,000 signatures this spring to put a strict measure against illegal immigration on the November ballot. But the state Supreme Court ruled that the initiative's wording did not meet legal standards.

"The Republicans really wanted a ballot referendum in November," noted Terry Snyder, a Denver political consultant who works with Democrats. "They thought that would get all the anti-immigration people out to the polls. That's why Owens called the special session in the first place."

The Immigration Debate



The Washington Post's coverage of the immigration issue, from the politics of revising the nation's immigration laws to the impact of illegal immigration on the U.S.-Mexico border and the Washington region.

- » **Bills:** [Side-by-side comparison](#)
- » **Key Facts:** [Reform Proposals](#)
- » **Map:** [A Widespread Issue](#)
- » **Special Report:** [Full Coverage](#)

Life Along 'La Linea'



The U.S.-Mexico border is at the forefront of a growing debate over U.S. immigration and border security reform.

- » [Narrated Slideshow](#)
- » [More Multimedia](#)

Save & Share

- » [Tag This Article](#)

► [Saving options](#)

RSS News Feeds

- [XML](#) [Top News](#) [XML](#) [XML](#) [XML](#) [XML](#)
 - [XML](#) [Politics](#) [XML](#) [XML](#) [XML](#) [XML](#)
- [What is RSS?](#) | [All RSS Feeds](#)

E-mail Newsletters

- View a Sample and Sign Up
- » [Daily Politics News & Analysis](#)
 - » [Federal Insider](#)
 - » [Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Manage Your Newsletters](#)

Advertisement

today in slate

Arts & Life
[Why Can't We All Just Get Along?](#)



Reading the Humane Society of the United States' suggestions for how to prepare your pet fo... [More](#)

But Democrats, with control of both houses of the legislature, said from the start that they wanted to avoid a divisive ballot proposal.

The key measure approved Monday would deny illegal immigrants unemployment checks, grants to pay energy bills, professional or business licenses, and some public medical care. An undocumented resident who applies for such benefits would face a fine.

For anyone younger than 18, the bill allows state services and services generally provided by local governments, such as soup kitchens.

Under federal law, many governmental services -- including education, police and emergency health care -- must be provided equally to all. This has been an obstacle in several state legislatures that sought this year to cut services to illegal immigrants; the Colorado bill authorizes all state services mandated by federal law.

A second law passed Monday requires employers in the state to certify that each new hire is a legal resident. Under intense lobbying from businesses, the wording was softened so that employers can be sanctioned only if they show "reckless disregard" about an employee's background.

[Print This Article](#) [Email This Article](#) [RSS Feed](#) [Permission to Republish](#)

© 2006 The Washington Post Company

Ads by Google

[Clinton's new girl friend](#)

How Bill's friendship with Canada's Belinda Stronach is making waves
www.thefirstpost.co.uk

[George Bush Bill Clinton](#)

Who Is A Better President? Vote Now To See Who's Winning!
www.popularq.com

[Green Card easily](#)

Professional assistance for the official Green Card program
www.green-card-visa-usa.org

SEARCH:

News Web results by

[NEWS](#) | [OPINIONS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ARTS & LIVING](#) Discussions | [Photos & Video](#) | [City Guide](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [REAL ESTATE](#)

[washingtonpost.com: Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#) | [Work at washingtonpost.com](#)

[The Washington Post: Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#) | [About The Post](#) | [National Weekly](#)

