



LAES has developed a series of immigrant issue instructional modules entitled "Tierra de Oportunidad" for orientation to our complex society.

Summary Sheet

Controversial Provisions Federal Legislation on Immigration

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Exclusion of undocumented children from school. H.R. 2202 contains a version of Proposition 187's denial of education to undocumented children. (Proposition 187 would have also denied education to the U.S.-born children of undocumented parents). This provision (sponsored by Congressman Gallegly of California) has led president Clinton to threaten to veto a Conference Committee report reconciling the House and Senate versions of the bill if it is included.

Punitive Provisions Against Immigrants who have been in the U.S. Illegally H.R. 2202, as passed by the House of Representatives in March, 1996, has a lifetime bar against adjustment of status (legalization, legal residency) for people who "entered without inspection" (i.e. walking across the desert, through a sewer pipe). An amendment to the Senate version of the bill -- S. 1664 -- has "only" a 10-year bar on adjustment of status but it extends to those who overstayed a visa, as well as those who "entered without inspection".

Summary Exclusion of persons who enter without inspection and instant decisions on asylum claims. These provisions in the new anti-terrorism law -- S. 735 -- which takes effect in October, 1996 compromise due process provisions of current immigration law. The Leahy Amendment in S. 1664 would have a positive impact in undoing some of the provisions of the anti-terrorism law.

Bar on Public Housing Assistance for Persons who house or help to house undocumented immigrants. This bar is the same in both the House and Senate bills (H.R. 2202 and S. 1664) and, thus, would be very likely to become law if the bills were reported out of Conference Committee and signed by the president.

Construction of Triple Tier fencing along the Mexico-US Border. H.R. 2202 requires building 14 miles of fencing in the San Diego Sector. The Senate Bill, S. 1664, allows the INS to build fencing "where it is needed."

Requirements for Sponsoring Immigrants. H.R. 2202 would require persons sponsoring an immigrant to earn more than 200% of the poverty level while S. 1664 would require persons sponsoring an immigrant to earn more than 125% of the poverty level, even if the person they were sponsoring was a spouse or minor child.

Deportation for Using Publicly Funded Programs. Both bills require that immigrants be deported for using a publicly funded program for one year or more during their first 5 years in the U.S. In S. 1664, this includes student loans, employment training, and a variety of other programs.

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