

Maryland

Yesterday the Governor of Maryland signed into law HB838 which eliminates the requirement of a social security number to obtain a Maryland driver's license.

The bill does require a SSN, but ONLY for people who have them. Those who don't have them can certify that fact and the Motor Vehicles Administrator can determine what documents will be acceptable in its place.

In clear language, in black and white (available at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2003rs/bills/hb/hb0838e.rtf>) the bill describes what occurs if the applicant lacks a SSN.

The official synopsis of the bill (available at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2003rs/billfile/hb0838.htm>) also refers to the situation where an applicant lacks a SSN. Despite this, in the Alice in Wonderland world of immigration politics, the chief sponsors of the bill and their allies in the open borders crowd have said that the bill merely creates a task force to study the issue. It is even claimed that the Governor believes this.

The governor's website (<http://www.gov.state.md.us/press.asp>) is silent on the issue as of today.

In addition to eliminating the SSN requirement the bill does create a task force to look into the issue.

The task force will consist of:

- one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate
- three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- the Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;
- the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
- the Homeland Security Director, or the Director's designee; and
- five members, appointed by the Governor, including the following:

one representative of an organization representing the interests of immigrants who reside in the State;

one representative of a bar association that specializes in immigration law;

one representative of an executive agency or organization with experience enforcing the immigration laws of the United States; and

one representative of an organization that represents the business community.

The total is 12 members.

The legislature is dominated by the open borders crowd, so given what we've seen of the tactics of our legislative opponents we can assume that the four to be appointed from among the legislature will all vote for licenses for illegal aliens.

Then, two of the governor's five must come from among immigration lawyers and representatives of "immigrants' rights" groups. It is certain that these two will vote for DLs for illegals

Thus, the Commission starts off with a guaranteed 6 out of 12 who will vote to find that licenses for illegals are not a threat to Americans' safety.

Some good news: On May 21 Gov Ehrlich did veto a bill that would have granted in-state tuition to illegals.

Connecticut

On May 13, SB926, the bill to ban issuance of licenses to illegal aliens was killed by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Comm. (in CT all committees are joint House and Senate)

We are told by witnesses to the proceedings that the Chairs, Sen. Daily and Rep. Stillman, committed a gross violation of the legislature's rules by refusing to allow the bill to come up for a vote. This was accomplished by running out the clock at the last permitted Committee meeting of the legislative session as the House was going into session at noon. Since committees are not permitted to meet while the House or Senate are on the floor, the meeting was adjourned without a vote on the bill.

In killing the bill, Senator Daily said that the country had "over reacted" to 9/11.

Our allies in the legislature, a **bipartisan coalition** led by Democrats, Sen. Ciotto and Rep Cocco, and Republicans led by Sens. Roraback, Smith, and Aniskovich led a move to revive the bill as an amendment on the floor of the Senate to a Transportation bill.

9/11 FSA held a press conference on May 21 with about 30 of our members and friends attending. At least five 9/11 family members spoke in support of the bill. Most from our group were from Connecticut, but Sally Regenhard drove up from NYC to speak, and April Gallop came from Virginia

Language that created some large loopholes had been added the newest version of the bill and negotiations are continuing to correct these problems.

Tennessee

April 30 another meeting of the House Transportation Committee was held to consider HB1790 to ban drivers' licenses for illegals.

April Gallop attended the hearing to speak on our behalf in support of the bill.

Witnesses tell us that April spoke movingly and effectively for the bill. We are in her debt. After April spoke, the two County Police Chiefs then also spoke for the bill.

Utah

Members of the Utah legislature are introducing a bill to ban issuance of drivers' licenses to illegal aliens.

Due to legislative rules the bill cannot be voted on until late in 2003.