



NEWS RELEASE

Office of Representative Jay Lawrence
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE INTRODUCES BILL TO PENALIZE CITIES THAT DO NOT ENFORCE OR COOPERATE WITH CURRENT IMMIGRATION LAWS

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Wednesday, January 13, 2016) – Representative Jay Lawrence today introduced HB2223, which would penalize any city, town or county in Arizona that willfully chooses not to enforce or cooperate with current immigration laws, a stance that is sometimes referred to as being a ‘Sanctuary City.’

HB2223 would take money from cities that choose to go against state law and allow procedures that impede law and agency officials from conducting state business and gathering information on immigration status, and that issue identification to people in violation of federal immigration law.

If a city, town or county is found to have knowingly put in place these procedures or prohibited officials, that city, town or county will have its state shared revenue forgone for that month and every continuing month they are not in compliance with the law. Monies taken would be divided and redistributed among other cities and towns.

HB2223 is designed to ensure the safety of every city, town and county in the state. It allows federal and state agents to work hand-in-hand with cities, towns and counties to protect the commonwealth and establish a system where there will be no unknown or dangerous persons.

Representative Jay Lawrence stated, “It is of extreme importance to always maintain public safety and protect the people of Arizona. This precautionary measure will make sure that no dangerous or potential threat will go unnoticed in our state. With this bill, all levels of government will work together to keep Arizona safe.”

However, if a city, town or county is determined by the Attorney General’s office to be in compliance with the law, the city, town or county will receive the state shared revenue monies once again.

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