

Public Issues Fall September/October 2010

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Arizona's SB 1070 Immigration Bill was signed by their 22nd Governor, Janice Kay "Jan" Brewer.

Q&A: Arizona's new immigration law

By Nicholas Riccardi • Los Angeles Times • July 7, 2010

PHOENIX — Unless it is halted by a judge, Arizona's new immigration law is set to take effect July 29.

The Justice Department and civil rights groups have filed suit against the law, arguing that immigration is the purview of the federal government and that SB 1070 will promote racial profiling.

Q: What does the law do?

The law essentially mandates that local governments in Arizona enforce immigration laws. The provision that has received the most attention is the creation of a new state crime: failure to possess proper immigration documents.

SB 1070 also forbids local entities, such as city councils or police departments, from making it a policy to ignore federal immigration laws. It allows people to sue if such a policy is formulated.

However, it may take months or years to learn the impact of the law because judges will likely rule on how it can be implemented.

Q: What are police required to do under the law?

If officers stop, detain or arrest people while enforcing other laws or ordinances and reasonably suspect they are in the country illegally, they have to try to determine their status if it's practicable.

In other words, police don't have to determine someone's legal status if there's a shootout going on. They also get a pass if inquiring would hinder an investigation — by scaring off witnesses, for example.

Q: If police find that the people they've stopped are illegal immigrants, do the police have to arrest them?

No. The law is silent on what police must do once they determine someone is in the country illegally.

Q: What else must police do under the law?

Anyone arrested in Arizona cannot be released until police check with the federal government to determine whether that person is in the country legally.

Some read this to mean that it doesn't matter if suspects have birth certificates and passports — the federal government must confirm their status before they are freed. Others contend that the requirement only applies to suspected illegal immigrants.

Also, authorities must alert the federal government when any illegal immigrant convicted of a crime of any severity is released from custody or pays a fine to resolve a case.

To read the entire article here is the website-

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100707/NEWS08/100706086>

A full description of the bill is located on this website-

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/SB1070-HB2162.PDF>

Contact your Senator if you support a bill or not.

Find your Senator by using this website –

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Ways to promote citizenship and volunteerism as a club on this issue.

Jersey Junior's can do something very valuable with your club or individually to assist non-criminal immigrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers and their families who are detained in New Jersey. A contact agency that can be instrumental in visiting or supporting the freedom of non-criminal individuals who are detained in local detention centers and correction centers is IRATE & First Friends.

According to the mission statement of IRATE & First Friends, they are a non-profit organization that upholds the inherent humanity and dignity of all immigrants. They provide visitors and non legal assistance for immigrants held in detention and work for improved conditions. They advocate for the end of arbitrary, mass detention believing detention is morally wrong, legally suspect and wasteful of taxpayer funds.

What They Do

- Visit non-criminal detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center (EDC) and in the Hudson County Corrections Center (HCCC)
- Provide training for those willing to visit detainees
- Speak to groups on detention or immigration reform
- Collaborate with partner organizations seeking humane treatment of all detainees, and the end of detainment for asylum seekers
- Work nationally on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform
- Organize demonstrations to keep the plight of detainees in the news
- Invite you to join our effort

IRATE & First Friends website is - <http://www.irate-firstfriends.org/>

How can your club work with this particular organization?

Office Help

They will find a job (volunteer) for you. Such as: writers and clerks, gophers and spokespersons.

Become a visitor

Sr. Regina can train you in a few hours, and we will accompany or mentor you through your first visit. They especially need persons with language skills!!!

Join in Advocacy

Write letters, make calls, help organize records and people to make a change in our laws that allow this unconscionable detention to continue. Join them in meeting with lawmakers!

Attend Their Events

Meet the great people who already support their work, be inspired and encouraged. They rally, and march, eat together and speak out for those detained.

Use this website to locate a detention center near your club.-

<http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/dwnm>

Additional organizations in New Jersey that assist immigrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers and their families are:

American Friends Service Committee- Newark, New Jersey Office
website- <http://afsc.org/office/newark-nj>

International Institute of New Jersey- Jersey City, New Jersey Office
website- <http://iinj.org/>

Catholic Community Services, Immigration Assistance Services
976 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102-2503
Phone: (973) 733-3516

Jewish Family Service- New Jersey

Call IRA at 201-837-9090 or emailing IRA@jfsbergen.org

The handbook below gives you information on How to Start A Visitation Program. It is listed in the Visiting Immigrants in US Detention Facilities Manual- on this website http://oga.pcusa.org/immigration/pdf/detention_visitation_manual.pdf

Community Resource

Clubs can use the 2-1-1 resource to research volunteer organizations that they would like to pursue. Often people are referred to clubs in need and this is a perfect resource. Dial 2-1-1, use the website, www.nj211.org, call (877) 652-1148 or e-mail at info@211us.org.

2-1-1 is a free and confidential referral service in New Jersey. This service provides local resources pertaining to basic human needs (ex. food, shelter), volunteer opportunities, social service agencies, employment supports, support for youth, children, families, people with disabilities, senior citizens, physical and mental health resources.

Military Service Suggestions

It was brought to my attention that there's a growing need to help the female soldiers and the wives of active-duty soldiers. The USO at McGuire Air Force Base / Fort Dix is conveniently located for clubs in the Central & Southern Regions. If the clubs are interested in furthering their support of female soldiers and the wives and families of those in active military service, perhaps consider sponsoring one of the following programs.

- Family Readiness <http://ra.defense.gov/HTML/familyreadiness.html>
- Key Spouse Program- Air Force Branch- Contact Sergeant Perrin - (301) 981-0631
Article- <http://www.andrews.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123065877>
- Military One Source
<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Army.aspx?MRole=Member&Branch=Army&Component=Active>

September 2010

Labor Day is observed the first Monday in September. This holiday celebrates the laborers in this country. Labor Day this year falls on September 6, 2010. You can use the website below to see parades that are happening in New Jersey to celebrate Labor Day.
website- <http://www.new-jersey-leisure-guide.com/labor-day.html>

Child Passenger Safety Week is September 19-25, 2010.

As a club you can help advertise the seatbelt safety awareness in your community. The website below helps to locate a child seat inspection station near you to assure that children's seats are installed safely. <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting/index.cfm>

October is Fire Safety Month

Invite a local fire truck by making an event for youth and their families to learn about fire safety. Hand out educational information about a fire safety plan in case of an emergency. Raffle off smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Wear purple to a meeting to represent solidarity in raising awareness about domestic violence occurring in every community amongst all families.

Invite a professional speaker to your community from a local woman's shelter or social service agency to discuss the key factors surrounding abusive living/lifestyles, such as sexting, date rape, marriage rape, etc. Dial 2-1-1 for licensed and trained professionals who specialize with this expertise. You can contact professionals such as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or a Psychologist (Ph.D./Psy.D.).

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC - Junior Membership State Fall Conference

Who: Should Attend: All Jersey Juniors- Bring juniors with you from your club.

What: State Fall Conference and visit the headquarters

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2010

Place: NJSFWC Headquarters- 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Time: 9am-12pm (approximate times) check the website for more specifics at-

www.jerseyjuniors.com

Other Activity Suggestions

Do you have a local historic landmark in your town that needs preserving? Get involved as a club. Attend town meetings to promote saving our history!

Host a self-defense seminar at the local Y or community center for the public.