

Georgia's Sweeping Immigration Bill Goes to Governor

April 18, 2011

Practices

Immigration

The Georgia state legislature passed immigrant legislation (HB87) on April 14, the final day of its 2011 session. Governor Nathan Deal is expected to sign the sweeping immigration bill into law as early as today. HB87 mandates that companies with more than 10 full-time employees register with the federal E-Verify program to check the legal status of new hires and creates the offense of “aggravated identity theft” for the use of false information. In addition, it allows the police to question individuals about their immigration status and mandates sanctions for those who harbor or transport undocumented migrants.

The legislation, HB87, passed by a vote of 112-59 in the lower house and 39-17 in the Senate. The Senate tried to block the portion of the bill that required use of the federal E-Verify system to ascertain the immigration status of their employees, but the senators ended up passing HB87 in its original version, with the E-Verify requirement.

We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

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