



TOMMY WILLIAMS
Texas State Senator
District 4

Committees:
Transportation and Homeland
Security, Chair
Finance
International Relations & Trade
Select Committee on Redistricting
State Affairs

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**STATE SENATOR TOMMY WILLIAMS FILES
SANCTUARY CITIES - SB 9**

18 Republican State Senators Sign-On as Joint Authors

Austin, Texas - State Senator Tommy Williams, Chairman of the Texas Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, along with 18 of his fellow Republican Senators, filed Senate Bill 9 today, a comprehensive bill penalizing local governmental entities which engage in sanctuary city practices, requiring every person arrested to be run through the federal Secure Communities Program and providing the Department of Public Safety statutory authority to establish lawful presence in the United States before issuing a driver's license.

"SB 9 incorporates the sanctuary cities language passed by the Texas House in the recent 82nd Regular Session, and also includes elements essential for the prohibition of sanctuary cities to work," stated Chairman Williams.

The Secure Communities Program is currently used in our state's county jails, but individuals arrested and taken to city jails are often not run through the program. SB 9 eliminates this loophole.

Also under SB 9, the Department of Public Safety will be granted statutory authority to determine lawful presence in the United States before issuing a Texas Driver's License. Proof of United States citizenship or documentation of lawful presence will be required to acquire a Texas Driver's License. Applicants who cannot or will not supply the documentation will not be issued the license. Additionally, driver's licenses will expire at the end of a valid stay in the United States.

"Forty-seven other states require lawful presence to obtain a license to drive, and two others are in the process of adopting this requirement. The Texas Drivers License has become more than just a permit to legally drive, and it's important that only those individuals who are lawfully in the United States be issued a Texas Driver's License. I believe SB 9 implements solutions right for Texas and right for Texas law enforcement," added Williams.

Senator Williams represents Senate District 4 covering all or portions of Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Liberty, Harris and Montgomery Counties. Williams serves as Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee and as a member of the Finance, State Affairs, International Relations & Trade Committees and the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting.

Beaumont Office:
P.O. Box 5819
Beaumont, Texas 77726-5819
(409) 896-2350

Capitol Office:
Room GE.7
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0104
(888) 668-1227
Fax: (512) 463-6373
Dist. 711 for Relay Call

The Woodlands Office:
P.O. Box 8069
The Woodlands, Texas 77387-8069
(281) 364-9426
Fax: (281) 364-9473