



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 "TEXAS TOUGH" BORDER & HOMELAND SECURITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Responsible, Texas Based, Law Enforcement Solutions to Texas' Growing Border and Homeland Security Threats

Austin, Texas – State Senator Tommy Williams, Chairman of the Texas Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, filed Senate Bill 9 today proposing a “Texas Tough” package of legislative changes aimed at strengthening Texas’ border and homeland security laws.

“Since being named Chair of this committee, I’ve spent days and weeks traveling up and down our border with Mexico working with, listening to, and learning from local law enforcement of all jurisdictions as well as local elected officials as to what their specific needs are in dealing with border and immigration security issues,” Williams said. “These ‘**Texas Tough**’ solutions come directly from the front lines.”

Senate Bill 9 contains multiple, sweeping provisions to tackle specific issues unique to Texas’ experience dealing with drug cartels and criminal illegal aliens from countries known to harbor international terrorists.

The bill contains provisions to:

- Require citizenship verification for everyone and anyone arrested and booked in Texas;
- Require an inventory of all criminal aliens in Texas jails;
- Increase penalties and incarceration periods for members of drug cartels and criminal gangs;
- Crackdown on known criminals who apply for a Texas driver's license by referencing the electronically captured fingerprints database;
- Allow the Texas Department of Public Safety to conduct drivers license and insurance checkpoints;
- Allow expanded use of global positioning systems (GPS) by law enforcement in combating gang and cartel investigations;
- Increase monetary fines for drug crimes;
- Create a pilot program for law enforcement to use automated license plate readers in patrol cars; and,
- Put more troopers and officers in the field by expanding the use of reserve law enforcement officers;

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“Texans are all too familiar with our growing problems with the Mexican drug cartels, expanding criminal gang activities, and the multitude of problems associated with criminal illegal aliens,” Senator Williams said. “We have to implement solutions that are right for Texans, right for Texas law enforcement, and respect the U.S. Constitution and the division of responsibilities between the Federal and Texas State governments.”

U.S. Customs and Immigration issued a press release yesterday touting the success of their Project Southern Tempest efforts that led to the arrest of 678 gang members as well as seizures of illegal guns, drugs, cash and vehicles. They further noted that of those arrested, 421 were foreign nationals and 322 had violent criminal histories. These numbers serve to highlight the very real threats this nation and in particular Texans face daily.

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.

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