

Austin immigration experts speaks on impact of new No match regulations.

Burden shift to employers ensure legal workers

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By: Chelsea Hover

The Federal government handed down a new policy that shifts responsibility for illegal workers onto the shoulders of their employers.

The Department of Homeland Security is looking to hamper illegal immigration not at the border, but at every job site or back office in the United States.

"Hotels, restaurants, manufacturers, distributors, you name it, it's being impacted by this stepped up enforcement," immigration attorney Kevin Lashus said.

The proposed policy would mean employers would be responsible for verifying their employees' legal status.

If an employer receives notice that a worker's name does not match the social security number on file, they have 90 days to rectify it without facing any punishment.

If they don't, they could face hefty fines, immigration raids or even jail time.

"This impacts every single employer," Lashus said. "Every single employer has an obligation to I-9. And so it's not an immigration issue, it's not an illegal alien issue, it's a labor issue."

Some believe it's a labor issue that could have serious consequences for Austin's current steady economy.

"The buildings that are going up in Austin, the road construction, if you look at the construction jobs, you see a lot of Hispanics working on the job sites, so that will certainly have an impact," Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board member Paul Saldana said.

"We really do need to look at the bigger picture and truly define the economic impacts that this will have on the local economy and the nation."

Senator John Cornyn sits on the Senate subcommittee on immigration



It's not at the border, but rather at job sites where The Department of Homeland Security is looking to hamper illegal immigration.

"This is another symptom of the federal government's failure to fix our broken immigration system," Cornyn said.

He said it's not fair to put added pressure on employers to regulate illegal workers if the government doesn't provide the tools.

"The problem is the Federal government hasn't given them a tamper-proof secure social security card that has any integrity or reliability," Cornyn said.

So while false documentation continues to run rampant, and employers potentially face harsher penalties, many said it's time for a broader approach to really reform this country's immigration dilemma.