

Highlights of administration's illegal immigration crackdown plan

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Aug. 10, 2007, 12:05PM

By The Associated Press

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WASHINGTON — Highlights of tactics the Bush administration plans to use or has been using to beef up enforcement on immigration:

_Hold employers liable for employing workers who have been notified of problems with their Social Security information and have not resolved those problems in 90 days.

_Reduce the number of documents employers can accept to verify a worker's eligibility.

_Raise civil fines imposed on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants by about 25 percent.

_Prevent illegal immigrants who have agreed to leave the country from remaining in the country through legal maneuvers by making them subject to deportation if arrested and fining them \$3,000.

_Direct the Labor Department to make changes to the H2A agricultural seasonal worker program so it is easier for farmers to use, provides them workers on time and protects workers' rights.

_Correct processing delays in the H2B program for hiring seasonal workers for the landscaping, hospitality and other industries.

_Extend from one year to three the duration of a visa for hiring professional workers from Canada and Mexico to attract more such workers to the U.S.

_Spend more money to speed up background checks on immigrants.

_Require the Social Security administration and Department of Homeland Security to devise a way to prevent undocumented workers from earning credit in the Social Security system for work they've done while in the country illegally.

_Expand lists of organized gangs from other nations whose members are barred from automatic entry to the United States.

_Continue to work on creating a system that will record the exit of foreigners from the country for air, land and sea ports.

_By Jan. 31, 2008, begin phasing in requirements for U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean to carry passports to re-enter the country at sea and land ports.

_Homeland Security Department will deliver "state of the border" reports regularly.