

Measure on Legal Status for Immigrant Students Blocked

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An effort by Senate Democrats to advance a measure to give legal status to illegal immigrants who are high school graduates failed on Wednesday. Senator Richard J. Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, had sought to offer the measure, known as the Dream Act, as an amendment to the Defense Department authorization bill. But Republicans, who reject the measure as amnesty for illegal immigrants, blocked it. The measure would give legal status to illegal immigrants who are high school graduates and came to the United States before they were 16, have been in the country for at least five years and will attend college or serve in the military for two years.