

Mexico bill to decriminalize migrants

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MEXICO CITY — Mexico's Senate has voted unanimously to remove criminal penalties for undocumented migrants.

Some officials acknowledge that harsh immigration laws here have weakened Mexico's argument for better treatment of its own migrants in the United States.

Monday's measure must still be approved by the lower house, which passed a different version earlier.

Current law establishes punishments of one-and-a-half to six years in prison, but such penalties are seldom applied. Undocumented migrants are simply deported.

The proposed new law would make undocumented immigration a minor offense punishable by fines of about \$475 to \$2,400. Most of Mexico's undocumented migrants are from Central America.