

Cover up

How I did it: You could pay a high price for catching too many rays


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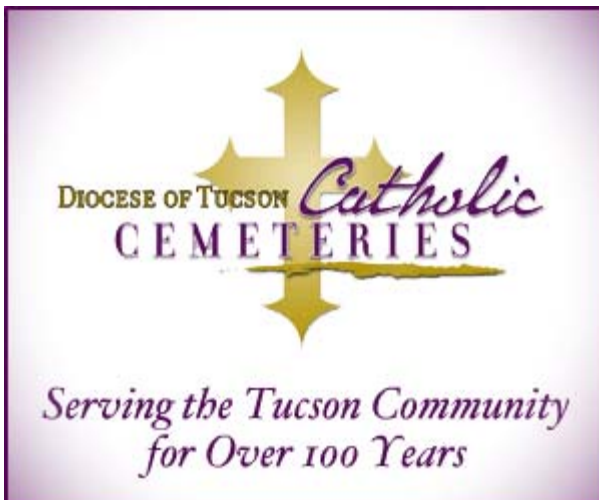
Border bill posing dilemma

Veto or approval would put governor in difficult spot

The Arizona Republic

Gov. Janet Napolitano has until Tuesday to act on a GOP-sponsored bill cracking down on illegal immigration.

The bill, at 26 pages and a potential state cost of \$160 million, would treat illegal immigrants as criminal trespassers, boost state funding for local law enforcement to deal with border-related crime and create new penalties for those who hire illegal immigrants.



Supporters have cast the bill as a comprehensive way to improve border security and reduce the incentives, whether employment or government services, that entice people to attempt to cross.

But critics say the bill is packed with problems, ranging from ineffectual employer sanctions to a trespassing provision unwanted by many local authorities. Napolitano is likely to cite those issues in explaining her decision.

The bill originally dealt entirely with employee sanctions and was so tough that it drew opposition from business groups across Arizona. A version with much of its teeth removed passed the House and appeared ready to clear the

Senate in April when lawmakers overhauled it.

The bill comes as interest in illegal immigration has reached a high. Arizona is at the center of the national debate, with the state's porous southern border the most popular crossing point for migrants.

Republicans have long painted Napolitano as weak on border issues. Opinion polls indicate most Arizonans view illegal immigration as a top issue and, with an election looming, the GOP has ratcheted up the heat on the governor.

But timing also has worked against the GOP. After years of inaction, the federal government may be on the verge of a border breakthrough. President Bush is advocating a multipronged plan to boost border

security, create a guest-worker program and provide a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

Whether she signs or vetoes House Bill 2577, there will be ramifications for Napolitano. With a veto, she risks being viewed as an obstructionist to border security. A signature could offend Latinos and liberal voters in her base of support.

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1. *Comment by Aaron K. — June 5,2006 @ 6:26AM*

If the Governor vetoes or does not sign this bill the GOP will put it on the November ballot. I am ecstatic to be able to vote on this bill!

2. *Comment by Aaron K. — June 5,2006 @ 6:35AM*

The idea of arresting illegals for being here illegally is so obvious. There is no good reason that it is not already a law. The federal government has no police force, so they can't pick up illegals one at a time. Once local authorities catch illegals, their punishment should be that they are held in jail until they are turned over to the Border Patrol. The cost won't be that high, and it will be recouped in cost saving in services provided to illegals and from an increase in taxes collected from the legal workers that will get their jobs back from illegals.

3. *Comment by L N. — June 5,2006 @ 7:44AM*

I can't believe this moron is still in office! She's so wishy washy on her ideas. First, she's all for stopping illegal immigration. Second, she said if the Minutemen/women needed any assistance she'd help..BIG JOKE THERE! Third, the bill is sitting on her desk and she's hesitant to sign it....she's a joke.

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