

# More Immigrants Getting Licenses In Response To New Laws

BY TIM KORTE AND MANUEL VALDES  
Associated Press Writers

BUREN, Wash. — Carlos Hernandez packed up his family and left Arizona after the state passed its sweeping immigration crackdown. The illegal immigrant's new home outside Seattle offered something Arizona could not: a driver's license.

Three states — Washington, New Mexico and Utah — allow illegal immigrants to get licenses because their laws do not require proof of citizenship or legal residency. An Associated Press analysis found that those states have seen a surge in immigrants seeking IDs in recent months, a trend experts attribute to crackdowns on illegal immigration in Arizona and elsewhere.

"It's difficult being undocumented and not having an identification," said Hernandez, of Puebla, Mexico. "You can use the Mexican ID, but people look down on it." An American driver's license is also a requirement for many jobs.

The immigration debate has thrown a spotlight on the license programs, which supporters say

make financial sense because unlicensed drivers typically do not carry car insurance. Opponents insist the laws attract illegal immigrants and criminals.

"Washington state and New Mexico have been magnet states for the fraudulent document brokers, human traffickers and alien smugglers for years," said Brian Zimmer, president of the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License, a nonprofit research group in Washington, D.C.

State officials in New Mexico dispute that claim. He said there is mounting evidence that the spike in license applications is a result of pressure on immigrants in states such as Arizona and Oklahoma, where police have been authorized to help enforce federal immigration laws.

Republican lawmakers in New Mexico and Washington state have pushed to tighten the laws in recent years, only to be thwarted by Democrats. The issue is less heated in Utah, where illegal immigrant licenses carry only driving privileges. People cannot use the IDs to board a plane, get a job or buy alcohol, for example.

Candidates in New Mexico's

governor's race have made the licenses a campaign theme, with the Republican saying she would revoke IDs granted to illegal and legal immigrants since the state enacted the law in 2003. The Democratic candidate opposes illegal immigrant licenses but prefers a softer approach.

The AP analysis of data in the three states revealed some striking numbers: The rate of licenses issued to immigrants during the 10 weeks that followed approval of the Arizona law reflected a 60 percent increase over the annual average for last year.

By comparison, the rate of licenses issued to non-immigrants during the same period increased only modestly.

Among the other findings: — New Mexico issued 10,257 licenses to immigrants through the first six months of 2010, compared with 13,481 for all of 2009. The pace has intensified since April, when neighboring Arizona passed its immigration law. The figures include both illegal immigrants and legal residents from outside the U.S.

— New Mexico issued about 417 licenses a week to immigrants from the day after Arizona passed its law through

July 1. That is a big jump from the 323 per week it was issuing from Jan. 1 to the day before the law passed.

— Utah handed out 41,000 illegal immigrant licenses for 2010 through June 7, compared with 43,429 for all of 2008.

— Washington granted 3,200 licenses to people from outside the U.S. through June, exceeding the pace of 5,992 for all of 2009.

Hernandez said he and his family moved to Washington because he and his wife were spooked by the Arizona law that requires officers to check a person's immigration status when enforcing other laws. A federal judge has put most of the law on hold, saying it may be unconstitutional.

Hernandez said he knows other illegal immigrants who considered New Mexico because of the ease of getting a license without documents. But he and others thought Washington would be safer.

"I know that it's not OK for people who come here to cross the border, but there's people that come here that want to contribute... that want to follow the rules," said Hernandez, 31, who has a 2-year-old daughter. Recent fraud cases in New

Mexico and Washington show some people are trying to exploit the rules.

An Illinois man is accused of driving two Polish immigrants from Chicago to Albuquerque last month in a scheme to charge them \$1,000 each for getting driver's licenses, according to a criminal complaint.

Jaroslav Kowalczyk of Des Plaines, Ill., allegedly ran an advertisement in a Polish newspaper boasting, "Social security not necessary. 100 percent guarantee."

In Washington, the FBI was tipped that people from across the country were coming to the state because of its license law. Three people, including one current and one former state Licensing Department employee, were arrested in June in a case dealing with the sale of identification documents to illegal immigrants.

"We don't think we're asking for much," said Rep. Tom Campbell, sponsor of a bill last year in Washington seeking to require proof of citizenship to get a license. "We have to have a handle of who's in our state."

In New Mexico, Motor Vehicle Division Director Michael Sandoval cautioned that it's

impossible to identify any specific cause-and-effect linking the Arizona law to illegal immigrants relocating in New Mexico because of the way the licenses are issued.

The state does not require clerks to document where immigrants moved from. And clerks cannot ask if someone is in the country illegally.

As a result, there's no way to distinguish between a license issued to a Swiss chemist employed with a visa at Los Alamos National Laboratory and a license assigned to a Mexican laborer in the U.S. illegally.

Washington state immigrant advocate David Ayala said it's better for drivers to have licenses, especially from a public safety standpoint.

"The people who are driving in the streets need to be tested that they have the knowledge and ability to be on the highway," said Ayala, organizing director of a group called OneAmerica.

People with licenses, he added, "have a more normal life. They can cash a check. They can rent an apartment. They can have insurance for the car."

## YANKTON COURTS

### CASES DISPOSED

7/23/2010 TO 8/5/2010

William Sternhagen, 1307 W. 8th, #21, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$99; license not in immediate possession, \$20

Shelby L. Neuhalfen, 2212 Western Ave., Yankton: Possession of alcohol by a minor, \$117

Ethan J. Schroeder, 610 E. 21st St., Yankton: Possession of alcohol by a minor, \$117

Andrew Novak, Utica, S.D.: Headlamps required, \$25

Jacob Beaudette, 104 Cottonwood Lane, Yankton: Seat belt violation, \$25

Joshua Patric O'Gorman, 2900 Douglas, #307, Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$130

Twila Loyd, 709 Cedar St., Yankton: Illegal U-turn, \$120

Kolt Lee Woodard, 120 E. 3rd St., #313, Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$130

Angela Dawn Lee, Gayville, S.D.: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$130

Ricky L. Woods, Lincoln, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$125

Kyle Mueller, 804 E. 12th St., Yankton: Possession of alcohol by a minor, \$120

Joey O'Borny, Freeman, S.D.: Theft by insufficient funds check, \$129; theft by insufficient funds check, \$129

Rhonda Ringheimer, Huron, S.D.: Theft by insufficient funds checks, \$142

Steven P. Stich, Sioux Falls, S.D.: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Sherry L. Elwood, Plainview, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$95

Joshua James Lynde, 504 1/2 Green St., Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$85

Holly Ann Arends, 1906 Pearl St., Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Kristi Lee Blevins, Sioux Falls, S.D.: Speeding other roadways, \$85

Alejandro Barrales, Omaha, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Michelle Deneine McMains, Canton, S.D.: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Lynn M. Martinson, Newcastle, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Breanna Rae Sibson, Vermillion, S.D.: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed-motion by court, failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120

Brenda Marie Scheetz, 1303 Oak St., Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$105

Adeline Ruth Burton, 511 E. 7th St., #3, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$99

Marvin Merchen, 805 W. 8th St., Yankton: Fail to yield from private driveway, \$110

Gloria Becker, 115 Lewis Trail, Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Josephine Braunesreither, 903 Peninah St., Yankton: Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120

Lucy Mendoza, 600 E. 6th St., Yankton: No drivers license, \$120

Niels Donald Anderson, 408 Douglas Ave., Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$145; seat belt violation \$25

Erika C. Sachau, Bennington, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Daniel E. McIndoo, Excelsior, Minn.: Fishing without license-non resident, \$170

Tyler R. Schlaefli, 801 W. 3rd St., Yankton: Theft by insufficient funds check, \$155; theft by insufficient funds check, \$66

Ashley A. Myott, 1014 E. 12th St., Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$132; fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$132

Brian T. McGinnis, 2705 Abbott Circle, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$109

Dawn Marie Sawtell, Mission Hill, S.D.: Speeding other roadways, \$102

Ashley Myott, 1014 W. 12th St., Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$132

Norman W. Lee, Gayville, S.D.: Theft by insufficient funds check, \$167; theft by insufficient funds check, \$66; theft by insufficient funds check, \$66

Tyler R. Schlaefli, 801 W. 3rd St., Yankton: Theft by insufficient funds check, \$142

Chad Hoelsing, 1307 W. 8th St., #7, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$99

Lyndsey A. Bruget, Brookings, S.D.: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Tea J. Baker, 403 Locust St., Yankton: Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$270

Jesus Navarez, 903 Peninah, Yankton: Fail to yield from private driveway, \$110

Alan M. Neilan, Waubay, S.D.: Overweight on axle, \$215

Daniel A. Rice, 415 Lynn St., Stevens House, Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Harold Fejfar, 804 E. 18th St., Yankton: Following too closely, \$120

Jose L. Osegueda-Beltran, Gretna, La.: Fishing without license-non resident, \$170

Troy Gene Shrank, 2400 Douglas, Lot 119, Yankton: Seat belt violation, \$25

Elizabeth Ann Wallenstein, 109 Sid St., Yankton: Seat belt violation, \$25

Andrew Carl Steckler, 43425 310th St., Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$96

Virgil O. Weston, 306 1/2 E. 5th St., Yankton: Theft by insufficient funds check, \$130 with 5 days suspended based on conditions of the court

Vernon Merritt, 408 Burleigh, #1, Yankton: No drivers license, \$127

Doyle Becker, 3008 Mulligan Dr., Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$125

Jacob Ole Rockne, 803 E. 12th St., Yankton: Speeding on state highway, \$117; seat belt violation, \$25

Thomas Harold Davenport, Aiken, S.C.: Expired annual inspection, \$170

Michael J. Sullivan, Bellevue, Neb.: Municipal speeding, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Lacey Cramer, 309 W. 7th St., Yankton: Pet violations-animal at large dog/cat, \$70; pet violations-no

license dog/cat, \$70

Dean M. Pratt, Norfolk, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$112

Cody D. Wilson, Lennox: Speeding other roadways, \$125

Conly J. Schulte, Omaha, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$102

Jason Virgil Kruse, 410 W. 8th St., Yankton: Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Stephen Achen, 2513 Deer Blvd., Yankton: Open alcoholic bev container accessible in vehicle, \$120

Scott Guy Hetzel, 411 Capitol St., Yankton: Criminal entry of motor vehicle, \$384 with 30 days suspended based on conditions of the court

Russell Abbe, Wakonda: Criminal entry of motor vehicle, \$384 with 30 days suspended based on conditions of the court

Anthony Alan Eckert, Gayville: Simple assault, \$384; simple assault, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Cody Michael Sleske, 1215 Cedar St., Yankton: Poss two ounces of marijuana or less, \$480

Stephanie Vallecillo-Funex, 709 Burleigh St., Yankton: Misprison of felony, \$363 with 5 days suspended based on conditions of the court

Richard Kenith Sinkbell, Norfolk, Neb.: Driving on wrong side of the road, dismissed-motion by prosecutor, driving under influence-2nd of, \$643 with 60 days in jail with 50 days suspended based on conditions of the court

Scott Guy Hetzel, 411 Capitol St., Yankton: Possession of alcohol by minor, \$120 and 14 days in jail

Jessica Rae Justa, 604 E. 29th St., Yankton: operate motorcycle without proper eye protection, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Madonna L. Sixtoes, 2200 Broadway Ave., #21, Yankton: Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$267

Taylor D. Johnson, Sioux Falls: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Benjamin D. Carr, 1017 Walnut, Apt. C-10, Yankton: Municipal lewdness, dismissed-motion by prosecutor

Kevin Dean VanHolland, Sioux Falls: Seat belt violation, \$25

Viola M. Flood, Crofton, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$99

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Viola M. Flood, Crofton, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$99

Sarah J. Johnsen, Logan, Iowa: Careless driving, \$117

Kenneth Gebel, Missouri Valley, Iowa: Speeding other roadways, \$102

Sharon K. Eggers, Littleton, Col.: Municipal speeding, \$99

Billy W. Fuller, Brookings: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Cody Michael Park, Utica: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Lois Luella Steenhovon, Volin: Municipal speeding, \$99

Mary Ann Blachnik, Scotland, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$142

Necol M. Arens, 44486 SD HWY 50, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$119

Steve Poznicek, Burbank: Speeding other roadways, \$122

Lisa Ann Berry, 603 Regal Drive, Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$125

Bryan J. Suing, Crofton, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$125

Lawrence Stepanek, 1108 West St., Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$99

Michael B. Sudbeck, 108 Clark Trail, Yankton: Obey traffic device unless directed by policeman, \$117

Lucy M. Mendoza, 600 E. 6th St., Yankton: No drivers license, \$120; throw match or burning object from vehicle, \$120

Ronald E. Temple, Norfolk, Neb.: Speeding other roadways, \$102

Magan Ann Whetham, Garretson: Speeding other roadways, \$138

Sophie Merrigan, 1002 West St., Yankton: Municipal speeding, \$119

Julia Plucker, Omaha, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$145

William J. Desmet, Sioux Falls: Renewal registration during assigned month, \$120

Nancy E. Matcha, 31018 434th Ave., Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$105

Betty Jean Cwach, 1506 Burleigh St., Yankton: Speeding other roadways, \$102

Rhonda A. Harmelin, Crofton, Neb.: Municipal speeding, \$99

Charleen Kube, Crofton, Neb.: Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120

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