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## IMMIGRATIONWORKS USA RELEASES FIRST LEGISLATIVE UPDATE OF 2011

WASHINGTON – *State legislative sessions have gotten off to a quick and busy start with immigration at or near the top of the agenda in capitals across the country.*

*ImmigrationWorks USA is monitoring the debates, and its first state legislative update of the new year covers employer sanctions bills being taken up in 13 states. In at least five states, lawmakers are considering bills that require all employers to enroll in E-Verify.*

The types of measures being considered are as varied as the states: legislation modeled on Arizona's tough new enforcement law SB 1070, provisions to eliminate birthright citizenship, voter identification requirements, bans on government benefits for unauthorized immigrants, English-only mandates, bills abolishing "sanctuary city" protections and – a new gambit not seen before – provisions denying workers' compensation benefits to unauthorized immigrants. Of most concern to business owners, bills requiring that all employers, public and private, enroll in the federal employment verification program, E-Verify, are being talked about in at least five states and may well appear in several others ....

Newly elected legislators and governors are eager to make good on their promises to crack down on the businesses that hire illegal immigrants .... And in several states where the debate now centers on SB 1070 copycat measures, business insiders expect those provisions to fail or be dropped from bills, adding to the political pressure to pass laws mandating E-Verify.

*Find the full text of the report [here](#).*

**IW USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at  
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ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of small business owners advocating immigration reform. The organization links 25 state-based, pro-immigration business coalitions: employers and trade associations from Florida to Oregon and from every sector of the economy that relies on immigrant workers. IW assists these groups with strategic coordination, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law in their states and in Washington. The organization works closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation and other leading trade groups. Members of the IW board of directors include Marriott Chairman and CEO Bill Marriott, former AZ Rep. Jim Kolbe and syndicated columnist Linda Chavez.

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