

## Pennsylvania City Passes Strict Anti-Immigration Act

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Mary K. Brunskill - All Headline News Staff Writer

Hazleton, PA (AHN) - The city council of Hazleton, a northeastern town in Pennsylvania, passed the Illegal Immigration Relief Act in a 4-to-1 vote, under which landlords would face \$1,000 fines for every illegal immigrant found renting their properties and businesses who employ illegal immigrants wouldn't be given licenses.

It is one of the nation's strictest ordinances to fight illegal immigration.

Barletta proposed the Illegal Immigration Relief Act last June in response to what he said were problems with violent crime, crowded schools, hospital costs and the demand for services.

Opponents said the Act was divisive and may even be illegal, but supporters argued the growing number of people immigrating to Hazletown has damaged the city's quality of life.

Hazleton's mayor, Lou Barletta, said he wore a bulletproof vest to the vote as a precaution because the issue was emotionally charged.

After the vote, hundreds of people on both sides of the issue gathered outside City Hall. A line of police officers brought in anticipation of any trouble separated those who supported the act from those who were against it.

Barletta told the AP, "What you see here tonight, really, is a city that wants to take back what America has given it."

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