

Other states set to follow suit on Arizona immigration law

The Associated Press

Emboldened by signals that the U.S. Supreme Court may uphold parts of Arizona's immigration law, legislators and activists across the country say they are gearing up to push for similar get-tough measures in their states.

"We're getting our national network ready to run with the ball, and saturate state legislatures with versions of the law," said William Gheen, president of Americans for Legal Immigration. "We believe we can pass it in most states."

That goal may be a stretch, but lawmakers in about a dozen states told The Associated Press they were interested in proposing Arizona-style laws if its key components are upheld by the Supreme Court. A ruling is expected in June on the Department of Justice's appeal that the law conflicts with federal immigration policy.

Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said he was encouraged that several



AP photo

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer speaks to reporters outside the Supreme Court on April 25, after the court's hearing on Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law.

Justices suggested during Wednesday's oral arguments that they are ready to let Arizona enforce the most controversial part of its law — a requirement that police officers check the immigration status of people they suspect are in the country illegally. Another provision allows suspected illegal immigrants to be arrested without warrants

"The justices sent a clear signal that there's a huge zone for state action in this area," Stein said. "There will be an enormous amount of energy spent in next few months examining the full range of possibilities."

For starters, a ruling in favor of Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 would likely enable Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah to put move

forward with comparable measures that were enacted but have been on hold pending the high court's decision.

"If Arizona does very well, we'll do very well," said Alabama Sen. Scott Beason, sponsor of a law that in some respects is tougher than Arizona's. In addition to requiring police to determine citizenship status during traffic stops, it directs government offices to verify legal residency for transactions like obtaining a car license, enrolling a child in school and getting a job.

Lawmakers in such diverse states as Mississippi and Pennsylvania said they would be eager to follow the Arizona/Alabama model if the Supreme Court gives a green light.

"You look at poll after poll after poll, whether they're a business owner or employee or small business owner or executive, the majority of Americans support bills like 1070," said Pennsylvania Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, a Republican who chairs the House State Government Committee.

Metcalfe has already introduced a bill that incorporates

Arizona's law and is waiting for a favorable Supreme Court ruling to bring it up in his committee.

In Mississippi, a get-tough immigration bill passed the House earlier this year but died in a Senate committee. Its backers plan to try again next year, and hope for a Supreme Court ruling that gives them guidance. "This just ensures to the taxpayers of Mississippi that when we pass the law, we won't end up in a long court battle," said Republican Rep. Becky Currie.

As in Mississippi, South Dakota lawmakers also have rejected a measure based

on the Arizona law, but its sponsor, Republican Rep. Manny Steele of Sioux Falls, says he's ready to try again.

"I would be excited to get another bill going back in there, according to what the Supreme Court decision is," Steele said.

In Rhode Island, Rep. Peter Palumbo said he was pleased by the Supreme Court's apparent support for allowing states to enforce immigration law.

"It's tremendous," said Palumbo, a Democrat who would like to empower the state police to help federal authorities with immigration enforcement.



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Amarillo Slim lived life of kings

Poker Hall of Fame legend dies at 83

Los Angeles Times

It was 3 a.m. in Las Vegas in May 1972.

Thomas Austin Preston Jr., better known as Amarillo Slim, had won the main event at the World Series of Poker less than two hours earlier, and there he was looking for a game — any game.

"As long as it's for real money," the tall and lanky professional gambler in the anteater-hide cowboy

boots told a Los Angeles Times reporter, pushing his pearl-gray Stetson toward the back of his head.

"Seems like a feller ought to be able to get a game like that — something interesting, you know — in a town like this here," he said. "But I swear to goodness I just can't hardly find a thing to occupy my time!"

Amarillo Slim, who was long known as a living legend on the worldwide poker circuit, died of colon cancer Sunday in hospice care in Amarillo, Texas, said his son, Bunky Preston. He was 83.

A 1992 inductee into the Poker Hall of Fame, Slim was a colorful character who became known as poker's first celebrity. In the wake of his 1972 World Series of Poker win, he began promoting poker — and himself — on "The Tonight Show" and other TV shows.

He also wrote a number of books, including "Amarillo Slim's Play Poker to Win" and "Amarillo Slim in a World Full of Fat People: The Memoirs of the Greatest Gambler Who Ever Lived."

"He brought poker out of the back alleys," said Larry Grossman, a longtime gaming analyst and poker historian who knew Slim. "He was just a guy with an outsized personality, and he was the perfect person for the time to repre-

sent poker. It was really Slim that became the face of poker for middle America."

He also was known for his claims of making eccentric bets.

Tales abound, including beating Minnesota Fats in a game of pocket billiards using a broom stick. Or beating tennis hustler Bobby Riggs in a game of pingpong using an iron skillet. Or betting he could hit a golf ball more than a mile.

"I found this frozen lake," he told the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 1992, "and the ball hits the ice and

starts slidin' ... and one and a half, two miles away it was still goin'."

Losing was always a possibility in gambling, Slim acknowledged, but he didn't consider losing a bad thing in itself. "Anyone that never loses doesn't do much playing," he told the New Orleans Times-Picayune in 1994. "If there wasn't any losing, it wouldn't be any fun. You'd be bored to death."



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